**Small Group Discussion Guide
The Way – Week 13
Paul in Ephesus**

**Scripture: Acts 19:23–41**

## Opening Prayer

Gracious God, in times of chaos and confusion, you are still on the throne. As we gather today, calm our hearts, open our minds, and draw us close to you. Guide our conversation and help us to see your peace and your truth. Amen.

**Icebreaker Question**Have you ever been caught up in a situation where everyone around you was upset, but you weren’t sure why? How did it feel?

**Sermon Summary**In Acts 19, Paul’s preaching in Ephesus disrupts more than religious practices—it shakes the economy built around idol-making. Demetrius, a silversmith, stirs up a riot when profits decline, revealing that fear of financial loss outweighed devotion to Artemis. The mob’s chaos illustrates how opposition often arises when the gospel challenges comfort, self-interest, or cultural systems. Yet God shows sovereignty by using an unexpected city clerk to restore calm. The story reminds us that we do not face our struggles alone. God is still on the throne. God’s peace steadies us, even when the world feels like a riot around us.

## Key Points

• The gospel often challenges not just belief, but entire systems of comfort, status, and economy.
• Demetrius’ speech reveals how fear of loss often exposes our deepest values.
• The riot demonstrates the difference between the noise of the world and the voice of God.
• God works through unexpected people—even a city clerk—to protect His mission and bring peace.
• Our faith does not depend on our strength or debate skills, but on the Lord’s sovereign power.

## Key Quotes from the Sermon

• “Whenever the light of Christ shines clearly, shadows of opposition often grow darker.”

• “People’s fear of loss often reveal what they value most.”

• “It is important to differentiate between the noise of the world and the voice of God.”

• “We do not fight our battles alone.”

• “God is still on the throne and His peace will steady you.”

## Discussion Questions

• What similarities do you see between the riot in Ephesus and the cultural tensions we face today?

• Why do you think money and self-interest so easily get in the way of faithfulness to God?

• Where do you notice 'the noise of the world' distracting you from 'the voice of God'?

• Have you ever seen God bring peace or clarity through an unexpected person or circumstance?

• What would it look like to trust that 'God is still on the throne' in your current challenges?

## Life Application: What Next?

This week, take time to reflect on what makes you defensive or anxious. Ask yourself, ‘What am I afraid of losing?’ Then bring that to God in prayer, asking for God’s peace to steady you. Commit to listening more intentionally to the voice of God than to the noise of the world.

## Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, when the world feels chaotic, remind us that you are on the throne. Silence the noise of fear and confusion, and help us to hear your voice of truth and peace. Send us out with courage to stand firm in faith, trusting that you are always with us. Amen.