

# HOW IT STARTED

# HOW IT'S GOING

## WEEK 8 - THE RIOT IN EPHEBUS

### OVERVIEW

In the early chapters of Acts, we saw how the message of the gospel sparked opposition and violence when confronting the Jewish religious establishment. Now, we see how the Gentile world responds. When the movement of the Church begins to challenge the gods of wealth and power, the reaction in Ephesus is swift and chaotic. This story is a reminder that **our message will always create friction with the powers of this world**, and an encouragement to ensure we are not ever appeasing these worldly idols!

*A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars.*

Acts 19:19

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what way(s) are people today like the Christians in Ephesus, who were following Jesus but still practicing sorcery on the side?
2. What were the new Christians in Ephesus doing that was seen as a threat (for example, Acts 19:23-27)?
3. Read **Philippians 2:5-7**. What does it look like to set ourselves aside?
4. Barry describes the god of Reputation and the god of Prosperity. Discuss some proactive steps we can take to recognize and lessen the power these hold over us. Or to "threaten the powers of this world".
5. What are some other powers of this world that we should not appease, if we are living like Jesus?
6. Read **Matthew 6:21**. Where is your heart?
7. Does your faith threaten the powers of this world? Give an example of something that might happen in real life if those powers - and the people who serve them - were threatened and were pushing back.

### RESOURCES

[gracechurch.us](http://gracechurch.us)