



Home Teams
DISCUSSION GUIDE

RESTORE

CONTINUING THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 5: From Comfortable to Committed

📌 Big Idea

Commitment will replace comfort as we encounter the power of God!

▶ **Watch Week 5 Video** (on DVD or at pathwaychurch.com/messages/restore)

📄 **Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers**

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Who are the people in your life who know the most about you? Your family? Friends? Co-workers? Others?

2. Who in your life would know if you were truly committed to something or if you were just “phoning it in?” Have you ever just “phoned” something in?

3. What does commitment require? What is something in your life—anything at all—that you are committed to at such a high level that you sacrifice other things in order to stay committed to it?

READ

ACTS 19:11-27 NIV

¹¹ God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

¹³ Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

¹⁷ When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. ¹⁸ Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. ¹⁹ A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. ²⁰ In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

²¹ After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "I must visit Rome also." ²² He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.

²³ About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. ²⁴ A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. ²⁵ He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: "You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. ²⁶ And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. ²⁷ There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty."

IN THE WORD

1. Compare and discuss the integrity of Sceva's sons (19:14) with the integrity of the new believers (19:18-19).

2. When we consider the events that unfold in Acts 19:13-20, is there any significance that "God did extraordinary miracles" here (verse 11)?

3. It's clear from Acts 19:23-27 that worship of Artemis was the bedrock of a stable and lucrative economy in Ephesus. If Paul has not blasphemed her (see 19:37), why did the local businessmen fear considerable loss if the word of Christ were to continue to grow? See also 19:19-20 & 19:26.

4. The sincerity and commitment of these new believers is highlighted in two ways: the loss of expensive scrolls and the loss of income that those scrolls provided (as "professional" guidelines for sorcery).

Reread Acts 19:19. A drachma was approximately a day's wage. As a group, determine an approximate day's wage today. What would be the value of 50,000 days? Estimate the total loss recorded in Acts. (*Don't forget—this is the value of the scrolls and does not include lost income*)

MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. When was the last time that you did or said something, because of your belief in God, that was “out of your comfort zone”? What was the result? If given the chance, would you handle it differently now?
2. If it was clear to you that it was God’s desire, is there something that would be difficult to give up or let go of? Why is this important to you? (Comfort? Control?)
3. Is there any area in which you think you might have a tendency to mimic the actions or words of other believers without your heart being very committed?
4. Do you think that the reputation of those who profess to be Christians today is characterized by integrity? More specifically, what is something we could/should be doing as a group of believers at Pathway that will communicate to those around us that Christ has changed our hearts?

5. What is something our Home Team can be doing to tell those around us that we are serious about letting God direct our priorities?

PRAY:

Pray for each and every person in your Home Team during this season called *Unfinished*. Pray that God would *restore* us as a people—that He would bring us from fear to faith, from consumer to contributor, from agony to eagerness, from self-sufficiency to full surrender, from a place of comfort and complacency to a place of true commitment. Pray boldly for this and allow each person in your Home Team to share their journey of restoration they feel God is still finishing in them as they humbly declare they are *unfinished*.

CONTINUED LEARNING

(self-study throughout the week)

Read Revelation 2:1-7—a message to the Christians at Ephesus (many years have passed since the events in Acts 19). Discuss and compare the correction, warning, and urging of Jesus here with the commitment of the believers in Acts 19. What do you think has changed?