
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 2, Bible Truth 4

The Case of the Marvelous Mess Acts 19, Ephesians

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Ephesus was a big, beautiful city. Many people came to Ephesus to worship the fake goddess Artemis in her golden, worship house. They bought little statues of Artemis and books that were supposed to be magical to take home with them. This was how life was in Ephesus for a long time.
2. Then, Paul came to Ephesus. "Turn away from Artemis. She's just a fake goddess. Put your trust in Jesus," Paul told everyone. "He is God's Son who came and died for the sins of God's people. He will forgive your sins and give you eternal life, if you turn and trust in Him as your Savior."
3. God helped Paul preach boldly. God even healed sick people who came to Paul. As they heard the good news and saw God's amazing power, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts, and they believed!
4. Paul gathered the new believers together and taught them more about Jesus, God's great plans, and how to love God and one another. As they listened, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. They wanted to live for Jesus! They wanted to live by God's Word!
5. But oh, how people of Ephesus were upset with what these new believers did next! They threw all their magical books in a pile and burned them up in a big fire! They needed no book but the Bible! It alone is God's perfect, powerful Word.
6. Then, the believers stopped spending their money on Artemis. Now, they would use it to take care of each other, and to tell more people about Jesus, as God's Word told them to. Paul was so happy! He thanked God for using His Word to really change these new believers!
7. Paul was very happy, but many others were not. "People are spending less money on Artemis and magical books because of Paul. We aren't as rich as we used to be," they grumbled. "Let's get rid of him!" they decided.
8. A huge, angry crowd gathered: "Hurray for Artemis! Boo for Jesus! Get rid of Paul! He's messed up everything in Ephesus," they shouted as loud as they could. At last, the city leaders came and quieted the crowd. "Leave our city now!" they ordered Paul.
9. Paul left Ephesus that day, but God kept changing the new believers through His Word. They grew to love God and others more. They kept on telling others about Jesus. The mess in Ephesus was far from cleaned up. It was there to stay. And that was a very good thing!