KINGDOMS COLLIDE TEACHING GUIDE

A companion teaching guide to Episode 4: "Kingdoms at War"

Main Scripture: Acts 19:23-41
Companion Devotional: *When the Old Kingdom Fights Back*
Where We Are: Ephesus, approximately AD 55
Teaching Length: 40–55 minutes

TEACHING AIM

Help participants understand that genuine allegiance to Jesus eventually reaches ordinary life—and when changed allegiance threatens old sources of identity, security, profit, or power, resistance may follow.

Acts 19:23–41 shows what happens when the gospel becomes consequential enough to affect the systems surrounding believers.

The Ephesian riot also teaches Christians how to respond when opposition comes.

The people opposing the gospel are not ultimately the enemy.

Christians can resist what is wrong without dehumanizing people, maintain conviction without contempt, exercise wisdom without cowardice, and remain faithful when the surrounding culture becomes loud.

By the end of the session, participants should be able to examine what competes with Jesus for their own allegiance, recognize how fear can disguise itself as righteous anger, distinguish people from the spiritual battle surrounding them, and consider how to remain both **convicted and loving** when faithfulness becomes costly.

RE-ENTER

Previously in Ephesus

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

The door opened.

After years of patient teaching, something extraordinary began happening throughout Ephesus.

God performed unusual miracles through Paul.

The sons of Sceva attempted to use Jesus' name like another Ephesian spiritual formula—and discovered that Jesus could not be borrowed, controlled, or manipulated.

Fear fell upon the city.

The name of Jesus was magnified.

Then believers began confessing.

Hidden practices came into the light.

Magical books worth fifty thousand pieces of silver were brought into public and burned.

Luke summarized the entire movement with one sentence:

"So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily."

The Word prevailed because people surrendered.

But the fire revealed something else.

People who burn magical books do not buy replacements.

People who stop trusting charms stop purchasing them.

People who stop worshiping idols eventually stop financially supporting the systems surrounding those idols.

The fire went out.

But the old kingdom noticed.

WHERE ARE WE?

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Location: Ephesus
Primary Text: Acts 19:23–41
Setting: Near the conclusion of Paul's extended Ephesian ministry

The Temple of Artemis occupies an enormous place in Ephesian religious and civic identity.

The world surrounding Artemis involves more than private religious belief.

Craftsmen profit.

Pilgrims travel.

Merchants sell.

Civic identity is reinforced.

The goddess, the city, and the livelihoods of people connected to her worship have become deeply intertwined.

Paul has not organized an economic campaign against Artemis.

He has preached Jesus.

People believed.

And belief changed behavior.

Now a silversmith named Demetrius gathers other craftsmen because he recognizes what is happening.

The gospel is reaching their ledgers.

What began inside human hearts is becoming visible in the marketplace.

CONFLICT METER

Kingdom Collision: 10/10

Episode 3 exposed the collision inside individual hearts.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Episode 4 brings that collision into the streets.

THE OLD KINGDOM

Idolatry → Profit → Fear → Anger → Crowd → Violence

Something important feels threatened.

Fear searches for someone to blame.

A person becomes the enemy.

Anger becomes contagious.

The crowd becomes convinced before many individuals even understand why they are angry.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus → Allegiance → Changed Lives → Courage → Wisdom → Love

Jesus changes the heart.

Changed hearts produce changed behavior.

Changed behavior may produce resistance.

But Christians do not respond by becoming another angry kingdom.

They remain faithful to Jesus.

MAIN QUESTION

How should Christians respond when faithfulness to Jesus creates resistance?

Keep this question in front of the group throughout the session.

Acts 19 does not simply ask whether Christians will remain faithful when opposition comes.

Written by Tyler Henderson © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

It forces us to ask:

What kind of people will we become while remaining faithful?

EXPERIENCE

BIG IDEA 1 — IF JESUS IS LORD, EVENTUALLY SOMETHING ELSE STOPS BEING LORD

Read Acts 19:23–27

Demetrius gathers the craftsmen.

Notice where he begins.

“Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth.”

Money.

Before Demetrius speaks about Artemis’ greatness, he speaks about income.

That matters.

Paul has been preaching Jesus for years.

But now the gospel has crossed a line.

It is no longer merely changing what people think.

It is changing what people do.

People who once trusted Artemis are beginning to live as though they no longer need what Artemis promised.

That means allegiance is becoming visible.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Faith eventually reaches ordinary life.

The wallet.

The calendar.

The relationships.

The habits.

The career.

The entertainment.

The ambitions.

The things we purchase.

The things we refuse.

The things we promote.

The things we walk away from.

Jesus does not simply ask what we believe while leaving everything else untouched.

If Jesus is Lord, His lordship eventually reaches everything.

TEACHING TRUTH

What rules the heart eventually leaves evidence in the life.

Paul never had to organize an attack on the silversmiths.

He preached Jesus.

Again.

And again.

And again.

People started believing him.

Then belief produced questions:

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

If Jesus is Lord, why do I need magical protection?

If Jesus is Lord, why am I still bowing before something made by human hands?

If Jesus is Lord, why does something else receive my deepest trust?

Those questions became decisions.

The scroll burned.

The charm came off.

The shrine remained unsold.

Paul had not directly attacked the Ephesian economy.

The gospel had made parts of it unnecessary.

BEHIND THE BATTLE — THE ENGINE INSIDE THE MARBLE

Artemis represents more than one isolated religious practice in the world portrayed by Acts 19 and our episode.

She is connected with:

worship.

money.

craftsmanship.

pilgrimage.

prestige.

tradition.

civic pride.

identity.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

People's lives are built around the system.

That means questioning Artemis threatens more than someone's theology.

It can threaten:

How will I provide?

What happens to my future?

What happens to my city?

What happens to my identity?

That helps explain the intensity of the reaction.

Idols become particularly difficult to surrender when other important parts of life have been built around them.

And the same thing can happen today.

Something does not have to look religious to compete for lordship.

Money can become identity.

Career can become security.

Politics can become hope.

Approval can become worth.

Comfort can become master.

Success can become meaning.

Tradition can become untouchable.

The question is not merely:

Is this thing bad?

Sometimes the better question is:

What am I asking this thing to give me that should ultimately come from God?

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

DISCUSS

1. Why do you think Luke records Demetrius beginning with money?
2. What does the reaction of the craftsmen tell us about the reach of the gospel?
3. What are some areas of modern life where Christian belief should eventually become visible behavior?
4. Can something good become an idol? How?
5. What might reveal that something has begun competing with Jesus for our ultimate trust, identity, or obedience?

BIG IDEA 2 — SOMETIMES RESISTANCE MEANS YOUR FAITH HAS BECOME CONSEQUENTIAL

Continue Acts 19:25–28

Demetrius understands where this road may lead.

He tells the craftsmen that Paul has persuaded many people throughout Ephesus and Asia by saying:

“gods made with hands are not gods.”

The implication is obvious.

Look at the silver shrine.

Made by hands.

Look at the craftsman.

Those hands made it.

If Paul’s message is true, their product cannot be what they claim it is.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Their economic concern and religious concern collide.

And resistance begins.

This gives us an important lesson.

Sometimes we imagine obedience should immediately make life easier.

We surrender something.

Confess.

Change.

Obey.

And expect peace to follow.

Sometimes it does.

Sometimes obedience produces another result:

resistance.

That does not mean every hardship is spiritual warfare.

It does not mean every disagreement is persecution.

It does not mean every person who challenges us is opposing God.

And it certainly does not give Christians permission to become suspicious or dramatic.

But Acts 19 demonstrates that allegiance has consequences.

TEACHING TRUTH

Opposition is not always evidence that faithfulness has failed.

Sometimes resistance appears because faithfulness has begun affecting something.

The believers in Ephesus changed.

Their changed lives stopped feeding parts of the old system.

The old system responded.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

WHEN OBEDIENCE BECOMES EXPENSIVE

Grace is free.

Salvation cannot be purchased.

Jesus does not love us because we sacrifice enough.

But receiving free grace does not mean obedience will always be inexpensive.

Sometimes following Jesus confronts something profitable.

A dishonest business practice.

A career advantage requiring compromise.

A relationship requiring disobedience.

An opportunity that demands becoming someone Jesus is calling you not to become.

A spending pattern feeding something Christ is freeing you from.

A social identity requiring hatred toward people Jesus commands you to love.

The uncomfortable question becomes:

What happens when obedience costs more than agreement?

It is easy to say:

Jesus is Lord

when nothing else has to move.

Ephesus asks what happens when Lordship becomes expensive.

DISCUSS

1. Why can Christians mistakenly interpret every difficulty after obedience as evidence they made the wrong decision?

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

2. How can we distinguish ordinary consequences, wise correction, and genuine resistance to faithful obedience?
3. Have you ever made a faithful decision that initially made something harder rather than easier?
4. Why is it important to say that grace is free while also acknowledging that obedience can be costly?
5. What area of life would be hardest for you to surrender if following Jesus clearly required it?

BIG IDEA 3 — FEAR CAN DISGUISE ITSELF AS RIGHTEOUS ANGER

Read Acts 19:28–34

Watch Demetrius' argument grow.

First:

Our wealth.

Then:

Our trade.

Then:

Our goddess.

Then:

Her magnificence.

Then implicitly:

Our city.

The threat becomes larger with every step.

And fear becomes anger.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

The craftsmen begin shouting:

“Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

The crowd grows.

Gaius and Aristarchus are seized.

People pour into the theater.

Then Luke tells us something extraordinary:

“Some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion…”

And:

“Most of them did not know why they had come together.”

Stop there.

Most of them did not know why they were there.

They are participating in outrage they cannot adequately explain.

Fear has become momentum.

Momentum has become identity.

Identity has become a mob.

TEACHING TRUTH

A crowd can give us certainty before we understand what we are certain about.

That should challenge us.

We are not immune to crowds simply because our crowds may be digital.

Outrage travels.

Fear travels.

Labels travel.

Half-truths travel.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Someone tells us who the enemy is.

Someone gives us something to fear.

Everyone around us reacts.

Before long, contempt begins feeling righteous.

Acts 19 asks us to slow down.

What actually happened?

What is actually true?

Why am I angry?

What am I afraid of losing?

Have I examined this?

Or did I simply join the chant?

BEHIND THE BATTLE — WHAT AM I REALLY DEFENDING?

Demetrius may genuinely care about Artemis.

The text does not require us to assume every religious concern he expresses is fake.

But Luke lets us hear what came first.

Our wealth.

That creates an uncomfortable mirror.

Sometimes we say:

“I am defending what is right.”

And perhaps we are.

But underneath that conviction may also be:

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

fear.

loss of control.

loss of status.

loss of money.

loss of comfort.

loss of influence.

loss of approval.

loss of a familiar way of life.

Motives can be mixed.

The gospel does not merely expose everyone else's idols.

It exposes why we defend our own.

That gives us a valuable spiritual practice whenever anger becomes intense:

What am I afraid of losing?

The answer may reveal something our anger has hidden.

DISCUSS

1. What do you notice about the progression of Demetrius' argument?
2. Why do people become especially angry when something threatens identity?
3. What does Acts 19:32 teach us about crowds?
4. How can social media amplify the same dynamics Luke describes in the theater?
5. Think about something that regularly makes you angry. What fear might exist underneath that anger?
6. How can Christians avoid being swept into outrage without becoming passive about things that genuinely matter?

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

BIG IDEA 4 — VOLUME IS NOT THE SAME THING AS TRUTH

The crowd recognizes Alexander as a Jew.

Whatever explanation he intends to give never happens.

The theater erupts again.

“Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

Again.

And again.

For approximately two hours.

Imagine standing inside that theater.

Thousands of people.

Stone carrying the sound.

One declaration repeated until it becomes almost impossible to hear anything else.

From appearances alone, Artemis owns the afternoon.

Paul is outside.

His companions have been seized.

The Christians appear powerless.

The crowd appears unified.

Artemis appears victorious.

But ask a different question.

Why are they shouting?

Because something is changing.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

People are leaving old allegiances.

The gospel has become consequential.

The shouting does not prove Artemis is strong.

The shouting may actually reveal how threatened her system has become.

TEACHING TRUTH

Noise does not determine truth.

A crowd can repeat something for hours and still be wrong.

A culture can normalize something for generations and still be wrong.

A belief can be profitable and still be wrong.

A tradition can be ancient and still be wrong.

A majority can agree and still be wrong.

And Christians can be loud and still be wrong too.

Truth is not established by decibel level.

Our confidence must rest somewhere deeper.

WHEN THE OLD KINGDOM GETS LOUD

Opposition can frighten us.

Mockery.

Social rejection.

Economic pressure.

Cultural resistance.

Political pressure.

Public criticism.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

When enough voices repeat something, we can begin believing volume equals victory.

Ephesus says otherwise.

The greatness of Jesus does not rise or fall with the volume of the theater.

This does **not** mean Christians should seek conflict.

Paul did not create the riot.

Provoking people is not evidence of faithfulness.

Being disliked does not automatically mean we are standing for truth.

Sometimes people oppose Christians because Christians have behaved poorly.

We should be humble enough to admit that.

But neither should we assume that faithfulness must always produce cultural approval.

Sometimes following Jesus creates tension precisely because Jesus refuses to share ultimate allegiance.

The question becomes:

Will I remain faithful when another kingdom gets loud?

DISCUSS

1. Why is it easy to mistake popularity for truth?
2. Why is it equally dangerous for Christians to assume opposition automatically proves we are right?
3. What helps you remain grounded when everyone around you seems to believe something different?
4. How should Scripture, Christian community, wisdom, prayer, and humility work together when we are deciding whether we are standing faithfully or simply being stubborn?

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

BIG IDEA 5 — THE PERSON IS NOT THE ENEMY

The riot gives the Ephesian church plenty of people to blame.

Demetrius.

The craftsmen.

The crowd.

Those who seized Gaius and Aristarchus.

Those who opposed Paul.

Those who shouted for hours.

Yet Paul would later write to this same church:

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood…”

— Ephesians 6:12

Paul does not deny human responsibility.

People still make decisions.

People can behave unjustly.

People can hurt others.

People can require boundaries.

Wrongdoing can require legal intervention.

Paul himself is physically prevented from entering the theater.

The Asiarchs warn him away.

Later, the city clerk appeals to lawful processes.

Wisdom matters.

Safety matters.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Justice matters.

But none of those require Christians to surrender the humanity of the person opposing them.

TEACHING TRUTH

We can resist what is wrong without deciding that the person doing wrong is beyond grace.

Demetrius is still a man Jesus can save.

The craftsman is still a person.

The person screaming in the theater still bears God's image.

That changes Christian warfare.

Fight the darkness.

Love the person standing inside it.

Expose the lie.

Do not dehumanize the person who believes it.

Reject the idol.

Pray for the idolater.

Refuse the kingdom.

Love its citizens.

That is much harder than simply choosing enemies.

Enemies simplify everything.

They give us someone to hate.

Someone to blame.

Someone to defeat.

Jesus gives us something harder:

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

people to love while refusing what is destroying them.

BEHIND THE BATTLE — REMEMBER WHO YOU USED TO BE

There is another reason the Ephesian Christians cannot look at the crowd with superiority.

Some of them used to be the crowd.

They were Ephesians.

Some had practiced magic.

Some had trusted the same systems.

Some may have purchased the same objects.

Some had believed the same promises.

Some had lived beneath the same fears.

The church was not a group of superior people looking down on sinful Ephesus.

It was a community of Ephesians Jesus was rescuing.

Grace destroys superiority.

When we look at someone trapped inside a lie, Christians should be able to say:

I may not have been trapped in that particular lie.

But I know what it is to need rescue.

That produces conviction without arrogance.

DISCUSS

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

1. Why is “our struggle is not against flesh and blood” difficult to practice when someone has genuinely hurt us?
2. What is the difference between loving someone and approving what they do?
3. What is the difference between forgiveness, reconciliation, trust, and boundaries?
4. How can Christians resist injustice without allowing hatred to form inside them?
5. Why should remembering our own need for grace change how we respond to unbelievers?
6. Who is easier for you to see as an enemy than as someone Jesus could redeem?

BIG IDEA 6 — KINGDOM COURAGE ALSO KNOWS WHEN NOT TO ENTER THE THEATER

Read Acts 19:30–31, 35–41

Paul wants to enter the theater.

Of course he does.

His friends are inside.

His city is gathered.

Paul is a preacher.

There are thousands of people.

From one perspective, this looks like the ministry opportunity of a lifetime.

But the disciples stop him.

Then even some Asiarchs who are friendly toward Paul warn him:

Do not go inside.

Paul listens.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

That matters.

Courage does not always mean walking directly into danger.

Sometimes courage means trusting wise people when they tell you:

Not this fight.

Then notice how the riot ends.

No miracle.

No apostolic sermon.

No dramatic conversion.

The city clerk speaks.

He reminds the crowd that lawful courts exist.

He warns that Ephesus could be held responsible for the disorder.

And the crowd goes home.

God's providence in Acts does not always look spectacular.

Sometimes deliverance looks like a government official using ordinary civic procedure.

TEACHING TRUTH

Faithfulness requires courage, but courage still needs wisdom.

Not every argument requires your participation.

Not every accusation deserves a response.

Not every crowd needs your voice.

Not every open door is yours to walk through.

Not every conflict is an opportunity God expects you to enter.

Sometimes the faithful response is:

Speak.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Sometimes:

Stand.

Sometimes:

Leave.

Sometimes:

Appeal to lawful authority.

Sometimes:

Allow wise people to hold you back from something you are emotionally determined to do.

Maturity learns the difference.

DISCUSS

1. Why do you think Paul wanted to enter the theater?
2. What do you learn from the fact that other believers stopped him?
3. Why can Christians sometimes confuse recklessness with courage?
4. When might refusing to engage in an argument actually demonstrate spiritual maturity?
5. Who has permission in your life to tell you, “Don’t go into that theater”?

WATCH

WHAT CHANGED?

Episode 3 ended with people changing allegiance.

Episode 4 reveals what happens when those changed allegiances begin affecting the world around them.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Watch the movement:

People believe the gospel.

↓

Belief changes behavior.

↓

Changed behavior affects old systems.

↓

Old systems feel threatened.

↓

Fear searches for a target.

↓

Fear becomes anger.

↓

Anger becomes a crowd.

↓

The church faces opposition.

And then comes the critical Kingdom choice:

Will Christians become like the kingdom opposing them?

Acts' answer is no.

They can remain faithful without becoming another mob.

SEED & HARVEST

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

The seed planted in Episode 3 has now produced an unexpected harvest.

People burned the books.

They abandoned old practices.

The Word prevailed.

But repentance had consequences.

Private surrender eventually became public disruption.

The marketplace began feeling what had happened in human hearts.

At the same time, Episode 4 plants another seed that will become increasingly important throughout the Ephesian story:

Where is the real battle?

The easiest answer is:

Demetrius.

Artemis.

Rome.

The crowd.

But Paul's later teaching will force the church to look deeper.

The battle is larger than flesh and blood.

And soon Paul will warn the Ephesian elders that danger does not only come from obvious opponents outside the church.

Some dangers wear familiar faces.

CLIFFHANGER — WHEN THE THREAT MOVES INSIDE

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

The theater empties.

Gaius and Aristarchus survive.

The crowd disappears.

The external battle quiets.

Paul's Ephesian ministry is nearing its end.

Soon he will leave.

But before he disappears over the horizon, Paul will gather the elders responsible for shepherding this church.

He will remind them how he lived.

He will remind them what he taught.

He will tell them to watch the flock.

And then he will give them a terrifying warning.

Wolves are coming.

Some from outside.

But others?

From among them.

The church has survived the kingdom screaming in the streets.

Now it must learn to recognize what happens when distortion gets inside.

Next Episode: The Warning

LIVE

PERSONAL REFLECTION

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Before discussing these questions, spend several minutes quietly with God.

Do not begin with:

Who is wrong with the world?

Begin with:

What is happening inside me?

---

1. WHAT AM I AFRAID OF LOSING?

Think about something that regularly produces fear, defensiveness, or anger in you.

Then ask what sits underneath it.

Am I afraid of losing:

Money?

Control?

Influence?

Comfort?

Status?

Tradition?

Approval?

Security?

A relationship?

A political outcome?

A career?

A familiar way of life?

Write:

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

When _____ feels threatened, I become afraid because _____.

Then ask:

Has this thing begun asking me for trust that belongs to Jesus?

2. WHO HAVE I TURNED INTO AN ENEMY?

Think of a person or group you find particularly difficult to love.

This does not mean pretending their beliefs or behavior are harmless.

It does not require removing wise boundaries.

Simply ask:

Have I stopped seeing them as someone Jesus can redeem?

Write:

The person or group I struggle to see through the eyes of grace is:

Then pray:

Jesus, help me resist what is wrong without allowing contempt to rule my heart.

3. WHAT MUST I NOT COMPROMISE?

Write down a conviction, truth, or boundary that faithfulness to Jesus requires you to maintain.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Now write:

WHAT LOVE STILL REQUIRES

How can you maintain that conviction without hatred?

Pray?

Listen?

Stop using insulting language?

Correct without humiliating?

Set a boundary without revenge?

Speak truth without exaggerating?

Refuse to participate in mockery?

Write:

---

4. WHERE HAVE I CONFUSED LOUD WITH TRUE?

Think about the voices shaping you.

News.

Social media.

Friends.

Political voices.

Religious voices.

Influencers.

Coworkers.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Family.

Your own social circle.

Ask:

Am I examining what I believe, or am I simply learning the chants of my crowd?

Write one area where you need to slow down, seek truth, pray, and think more carefully.

GROUP CHALLENGE

For the next seven days, practice this sentence:

“Fight the darkness. Love the person.”

When you encounter something you believe is wrong, do not immediately ask:

How can I defeat this person?

Ask:

What does faithfulness require?

Then:

What does love require?

Those answers will not always be identical.

Sometimes faithfulness requires confrontation.

Sometimes love requires a boundary.

Sometimes justice requires action.

Sometimes truth requires speaking clearly.

But contempt is never a fruit of the Spirit.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Choose one real situation this week where you will deliberately practice **conviction without contempt**.

LEADER'S PASTORAL NOTE

This session can easily drift into contemporary political arguments.

Do not allow the discussion to become an opportunity for participants to identify which political party, cultural group, denomination, ideology, or public figure represents "Demetrius."

That misses the point.

The text should examine **us** before it becomes a weapon for examining everyone else.

The leader should repeatedly bring the discussion back to questions such as:

What do I fear losing?

What competes with Jesus for my allegiance?

How do I respond when someone opposes me?

Have I confused people with the spiritual battle?

Can I maintain conviction without contempt?

Also emphasize that "people are not the enemy" does not mean Christians should remain in dangerous situations or tolerate abuse.

Acts 19 itself includes protective action.

Paul's friends prevent him from entering the theater.

The Asiarchs warn him.

The city clerk intervenes.

Lawful processes are affirmed.

Love does not eliminate wisdom, boundaries, justice, or safety.

Written by Tyler Henderson © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Finally, be careful with the language of spiritual warfare.

Not every inconvenience is demonic opposition.

Not every criticism is persecution.

Not everyone who disagrees with a Christian is fighting against God.

The passage should produce sober discernment, not paranoia.

CLOSING DISCUSSION

Return to the main question:

How should Christians respond when faithfulness to Jesus creates resistance?

Allow the group to answer.

Then give them one final scenario:

Imagine someone watches the way you respond to a person who opposes everything you believe.

They cannot hear your sermons.

They cannot see your Bible reading.

They do not know your church attendance.

They only see:

how you speak about that person.

how you respond when angry.

how you handle disagreement.

how you react when something important feels threatened.

how you treat someone standing on the other side.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

Then ask:

Would the way I fight reveal which Kingdom I belong to?

Sit with that question before praying.

CLOSING PRAYER

King Jesus, expose every allegiance in us that competes with You. Show us what we are afraid to lose and where fear has begun shaping our anger. Give us courage when obedience becomes costly and wisdom when opposition comes. Keep us from confusing loud voices with truth or resistance with defeat. Teach us to recognize the real battle. Keep us from turning people into enemies when they are people You came to save. Help us tell the truth without contempt, resist evil without hatred, establish wise boundaries without revenge, and stand without becoming another angry crowd. When the old kingdom gets loud, keep our allegiance steady. And let the way we fight reveal the King we follow. Amen.

LEADER QUICK REFERENCE

Primary Text: Acts 19:23–41

Central Truth:
When allegiance to Jesus becomes visible, resistance may follow. Christians respond not by becoming another angry kingdom, but by remaining faithful to Jesus with courage, wisdom, truth, and love.

Main Question:
How should Christians respond when faithfulness to Jesus creates resistance?

Six Teaching Movements

1. If Jesus Is Lord, Eventually Something Else Stops Being Lord — Acts 19:23–27
What rules the heart eventually leaves evidence in the life.

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

2. Sometimes Resistance Means Your Faith Has Become Consequential — Acts 19:25–28
Opposition is not always evidence that faithfulness has failed.

3. Fear Can Disguise Itself as Righteous Anger — Acts 19:28–34
Ask what you are actually afraid of losing.

4. Volume Is Not the Same Thing as Truth — Acts 19:34
The theater can be loud without being right.

5. The Person Is Not the Enemy — Acts 19:23–41; Ephesians 6:12
Fight the darkness. Love the person standing inside it.

6. Kingdom Courage Also Knows When Not to Enter the Theater — Acts 19:30–31, 35–41
Faithfulness requires courage, but courage still needs wisdom.

Key Phrase

“Fight the darkness. Love the person.”

Secondary Phrase

“The way we fight should reveal which Kingdom we belong to.”

Companion Devotional:
When the Old Kingdom Fights Back

Next Episode:
Episode 5 — *The Warning*

Next Companion Devotional:
When the Threat Comes From Within

 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved

A Note from the Author:

I sincerely hope that you have found something of value in this teaching guide. Kingdoms Collide is a ministry passion project from a guy that loves Jesus. If you need prayer or if you want to share a kind word with me, I would love to hear from you. Everyone needs prayer and encouragement. I would love to be that for you and for you to be that for me. Feel free to email me at KingdomsCollidePodcast@gmail.com

Every prayer request is confidential and will not be used in any media or promotional material.



 © 2026 Tyler Henderson All rights reserved