

ACTS 19 Launching Movements

Paul goes to Ephesus and finds a group that had been baptized by John the Baptist but had not remained in the Holy Land long enough to hear about Jesus. So he baptizes them in the name of Jesus. He also spoke in the synagogue and soon had many followers, but some opposition too. So he began teaching them in a school for two years (v.10). Verse 10b makes an amazing statement: "...so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks." The population at the time is estimated at about 2 million people. How many people do you think Paul personally talked to in those two years? 100 people? 1,000? 5,000? So who reached the rest? The book of Colossians gives us some clues:

- Paul never went to Colossae, a town about

150 kilometers (100 miles) from Ephesus (Colossians 2:1, 2). One of the "students" at the school where Paul taught every day was Epaphras, who was from Colossae (Colossians 4:12). Paul did not lead him to Christ but we think Timothy did.

- Epaphras shared the gospel and started the church in Colossae: Colossians 1:5-8, "In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit."

Think

What stands out to you in this chapter, Acts 19? Why?

Talk

Can you identify all 7 key principles of a movement in this passage (verses 1-20)?

1. Concerted Prayer
2. Reach existing leaders
3. Sow and reap abundantly
4. Filter out ripe fruit
5. Build multiplying disciples
6. Build personal convictions
7. Establish credibility

Act

Paul won Timothy to Christ and disciplined him. Then Timothy led Epaphras to Christ and disciplined him (with Paul's help). Then Epaphras led people in Colossae to Christ and disciplined them. We call this spiritual multiplication. How can you begin to see this happen in your own life?

This simple principle of sharing Jesus with others and then equipping them to share their faith and disciple others makes a huge difference in reaching others and the world for Jesus.

Wouldn't you love to see this happen in your own communities? What can you do to see this happen in your own life?