

Week 7 : The Riots in Ephesus

Theme : Don't follow the crowd, follow Jesus !

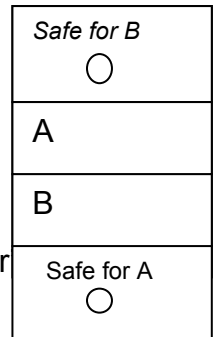
On arrival : Colour in banners that read, "Jesus is great!" in readiness for our story later on. Stick on this week's passport stamp.

Games:

Statuses: In this game of musical statues, the children adopt one of three poses according to the metal called. Bronze : Children must stand with their arms in the air; Silver : Children must crouch down; Gold – Children must stand on one leg. Statues that move are out !

Dodgeball: Let off some steam with this old favourite.

Capture the flag: Divide the hall into two halves. Place a hoop at each end with a bottle in each. The object of the game is for the opposing teams to capture the bottle that is being defended by the other team. Team A must capture their bottle from the A zone in Team B's half and vice versa. If tagged by a player from the other team, player must wait until freed (tagged) by another player from their team. The area where the bottle is kept is a safe zone. Teams may not go into each other's zones! Once captured, a point is awarded to the successful team and play starts again. Play the best of three



Introduction : Ask the children to think about situations when they have been faced with doing the wrong thing because their friends were doing it. What did they choose to do and how easy was that choice?

Story : There is a story in the resources that could be acted out. The story tells of Demetrius, the silversmith, who starts protesting against Paul. It is taken from Acts 19 v 21- 41. If you made "Jesus is great!" banners earlier, these could be used in the story,

Application : Did you notice that some people in the story were just following the crowd. Sometimes you can get in big trouble by just going along with whatever the crowd is doing. Use your head and think about the consequences of what they are about to do. Your so-called "friends" have in fact become your enemies when they try to get you to do wrong. As Christians, we shout, "Jesus is great!" not because it makes a great banner but because we believe that following the example of Jesus is the best choice to make!

Memory verse : "In Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge..." (Colossians. 2:3)
Cover some boxes in silver foil and put a word of the memory verse on each. As a whole group, try and put the verse together as a statue/tower– however, this statue is of God's Word. The trick to this task is that the statue will need to be constructed from the floor upwards – that means putting the verse together backwards – starting with Colossians 2:3 and ending with "In".

Prayers: Give the children a small square of silver foil – slightly crumpled works best. Look at it. It doesn't reflect a perfect image of ourselves. God knows we aren't perfect but loves us still. Pray that God will help us when we are faced with difficult decisions, especially when it means choosing not to follow the crowd. There is a letter from God to give each child in the resources.

Song: *F.R.O.G (Fully Rely On God) , God's love is Unstoppable CD, Big Ministries, Track 10*

Resources : *There is a fun sheet, story, letter from God and "Jesus is great" banner in the resources.*

Week 7 Story

In Ephesus, a silversmith named Demetrius made shrines used in the worship of the Greek goddess Artemis (sometimes known as Diana).

He was unhappy that Paul was turning people away from Artemis to a religion in which they wouldn't need the idols he made. Demetrius called together the other workmen. "We're going to lose our jobs if Paul keeps turning people away from our gods." he moaned.

The workmen were outraged at the thought. They set off through the town shouting, "Artemis is great!" Soon people started rushing to the amphitheatre for an emergency public meeting. There was utter confusion. Some people were shouting, "Artemis is great!" and others were yelling, "Jesus is great!" And others just followed the crowd.

Paul's followers were afraid for his safety and it was some time before the riot could be stopped. The town clerk shouted, "Everyone knows that Ephesus is the special city of the goddess Artemis and Paul hasn't spoken against our goddess. If Demetrius and the other workman have a complaint they should have Paul arrested and sent before a judge to decide what should happen to him. If we keep rioting then the Roman gods will be really angry with us! So go home !"

It was too dangerous for Paul to stay in Ephesus so he left for Macedonia.

Jesus

is

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