

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: Naked Xty #11 "GUTS". Acts 19:23-31; Acts 21:10-14

CONNECT IN with one another: *Can anyone tell us about a memorable theatre show they went to see* [NOTE TO LEADER: This question is not quite as random as it first appears, because the action in Acts 19 ends up in the Roman theatre in Ephesus, Turkey, which holds 20,000 people and which has in recent decades hosted concerts by Elton John and Sting, though Sting's gig did damage the Roman remains a bit and put an end to further concerts.]

CONNECT UP with God:

- **PRIMING THE PUMP:** *When you think back to Sunday's sermon, what is the first thing that springs to mind? Did you hear anything on Sunday that was new or different?*
- **GETTING TO KNOW ME:** *Can anyone in the group tell us about a time that you needed to be brave or show "guts" or courage?*
- **GETTING TO KNOW ME:** *Has anyone in the group ever seen a prophet act out his own prophecy, like Agabus does in Acts 21:10-14?* [NOTE TO LEADER: This is very rare today, but we might wonder why, seeing as it was often the way that Old Testament prophets presented their prophecies. Agabus had already accurately predicted a famine, and we might also wonder why there aren't more predictive prophecies today? What do you think?]
- **INTO THE BIBLE:** Read Acts 19:23-31. *Was it predominantly economic or religious grievances against the gospel that sparked the riot at Ephesus?*
- **INTO THE BIBLE:** *How did the riot in Ephesus end?* [NOTE TO LEADER: This is not a trick question. Anyone who can remember Acts 19: 32-41 has the answer.]
- **INTO THE BIBLE:** Read Acts 21:10-14. *To what extent did Agabus' prophecy come true?* [NOTE TO LEADER: When we read Acts 21:27-40, there can be no doubt that Paul did get arrested in Jerusalem, but critics of the Bible point out that the specifics seem different. Rather than the Jews binding Paul and handing him over to the Gentiles or Romans, it looks more like the Gentiles stepped in to stop Paul from being killed by the enraged Jewish mob. What do you reckon?]
- **APPLICATION:** *While few of us are facing physical danger for the gospel, and none of us are in a riot at the moment, does anyone in the group face a situation where you feel the need for courage, or guts at the moment?*
- **PRAYER:** God's Holy Spirit is not a spirit of timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline. (see 2 Timothy 1:7-8) *Can you think of a situation in your life where you need the Holy Spirit's power either for breakthrough, or to love another person, or for your own self-discipline?*
- **WORSHIP:** You might want to listen to the worship song "You make me brave." (NOTE TO LEADER: You can play it in off You Tube, just google, Amanda Cook, Bethel Music, 2014) A very unusual worship song on the theme of this week's sermon.

- **CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you** Paul tells Timothy: "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord." (2 Timothy 1:7-8). Let us pray for each other if there

is any situation we can think of where timidity might prevent us from speaking to someone who does not know Jesus about Him.