

ACTS : The Ripple Effect

Acts 19:1-22 | Abel Mendez | Aug 2, 2026

Intro: What Does Ripple, Bonfire, Big Wave have in Common?

Today: How God carries out his Kingdom Purpose : People!

Acts 19 : The Ripple Effect - Our Part in God's Kingdom Plan

This happens through Relationships.

Who would you consider a Mentor?

- More than a manager - who oversees your performance.
- More than a coach - who focuses on a specific skill.
- More than a teacher - who imparts knowledge or instruction.
- And TRUE one of these CAN BE a mentor...But the UNIQUE element of Mentoring is RELATIONSHIP.

Someone who builds an ongoing relationship centered on overall development and success.

My Mentors played a big part in my Development -

1. A Pastor - Helped me Develop as a Minister
2. A Missionary - Helped me Develop as a Disciple Maker
3. A Friend - Helped me Develop a Spiritual Imagination

Never Underestimate the Power of One!

- Following Jesus is NOT just a pursuit of knowledge - It is a vibrant life giving relationship we experience in Him and in Community.

We all Have a Part in the Ripple Effect : God's Kingdom Plan

- *What is a Ripple? When Wave Disturbance Transfers Energy from one place to another without requiring the matter to travel the entire distance.*
- *God is the source of initiating energy, People are participants in the ongoing transmission of His Work!*

How Do We Play our Part? We Surrender.

Receive God, Respond in Faith, Relay God and Our Lives to others.

Remember This: In Christ we are SAVED FROM Judgement & SAVED FOR Mission

Our Mission Gives Us Our Meaning - Matthew 28:19-20

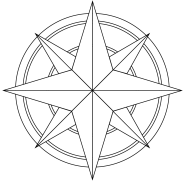
Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

C.S. Lewis

"The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, mission, sermons, even the Bible itself are simply a wast of time. God became a man for no other purpose."

How Paul Did it and How Paul Ended up in Ephesus

He Received, Responded, Relayed... Received, Responded, Relayed...



ACTS : The Ripple Effect

Acts 19:1-22 | Abel Mendez | Aug 2, 2026

Paul was Receptive

1. Acts 18:1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth...
2. Acts 18:4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue...

Paul Responded (My Man Charles Postel - A Holy Pivot)

- Acts 18:6 But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes... 7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justice...
- Paul's "Holy Pivot" - Proverbs 16:9 "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

Paul Relayed the Words of Christ

Acts 18:9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

So Paul continued in Corinth and then eventually moved on to Ephesus...

Paul is just ONE small part in the Ripple and Waves of God's Kingdom!

Point 1 : Receiving - Relating to God and People

Receptive : Willing to Listen, consider, be open, to Listen in order to respond rightly.

19:1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.

Paul was Receptive - We see his Curiosity in 3 Distinct Ways:

1- Paul FOUND disciples : He was Looking...

1. This speaks of Intention and Effort

2- Paul BEGAN With Questions : He was Curious.

- Not merely asking to announcement or probing to preach!

3- Paul FOLLOWED UP with Questions : He Listened to Understand!

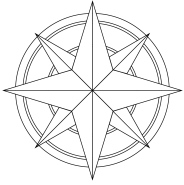
- People don't care what you know, until they know you care!

Our Problem (My Problem!)

"Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply." - Stephen R. Covey - 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Social Media and A.I. Had Made us "Experts" in many things!

"Knowledge puffs up, while love builds up." (1 Corinthians 8:1)



ACTS : The Ripple Effect

Acts 19:1-22 | Abel Mendez | Aug 2, 2026

We Listening? (To Understand and Not Just to Respond)

“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.” (James 1:19 NLT)

ALPHA SLIDE : (TAP/SCAN) Moment

A Judgement-Free space to explore the big questions about life and faith!

- If you are curious to Ask - Alpha is for You! Sign Up!

- If you are curious to Listen - Alpha Needs Facilitators, Sign up!

Being a Part of the Ripple Effect of God’s Kingdom is as simple as a prayer : Here I am Lord Send me!!!

Point 2 : Responding - How Paul Responds (To People & Opposition)

Acts 19:4 Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

3 Things to Note:

1 - Baptisms : Outward profession of Faith in Jesus

2 - Holy Spirit Power (Pentecost) God’s disturbance (Making Ripples)

3 - 12 : A Mere Ripple in a population of around 200,000 - 250,000

Do Not Despise Small things - Never Underestimate the power of one! (I love big events - but Jesus called us to make disciples - This is what the next generation wants)

Someone who builds an ongoing relationship and is centered on overall development and success.

There is a WHOLE COMMUNITY of Hungry Young Adults:

I challenge you to do One of or Both Things :

1 - Visit the Young Adult Tent After Church - Get a Coffee Introduce yourself to AI.

2 - Come to Men’s BBQ Tomorrow Night - Childcare is Available!

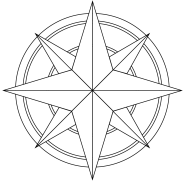
Receive, Respond, Relay... This is how the Kingdom moves forward.

- God is the source of initiating energy, people are participants in the ongoing transmission of His Work.
- Acts 1:8 You will receive POWER when the Holy spirit comes on you, and you will be my witness!

Now a look how Paul responds to opposition...

Acts 19:8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way.

1- Speaking Boldly (parrēsiazomai) - Speak freely; Growing Confidence, Showing Bold Assurance and Confidence. (NOT) Being Defiant, Disrespectful, Belligerent or Obnoxious.



ACTS : The Ripple Effect

Acts 19:1-22 | Abel Mendez | Aug 2, 2026

2 - Speaking About the Kingdom

- Arguably the single most prominent theme in Jesus' recorded teachings.

3 - Paul Received Opposition - Maligned" (kakologeō) Same Greek word s used against Jesus in Mark 9:39

Paul's Disturbance was GOD's way of making Ripples and Eventually A Huge Wave of Revival in Ephesus!!!!

9 So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. (AMAZING!)

There are times in life, when Obedience to Jesus is met with a closed doors, rejection, slander, being side-lined, or even worse - Silence from those we previously had relationships and trust.... Take Heart....

Did You Know :

- Michael Jordan was Cut from His High School Varsity Team
- Abraham Lincoln lost 5 Elections
- Steve Jobs was Fired from Apple in 1985

Thomas Edison the Inventor of the Practical Incandescent Bulb...

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

Gods Closed Door was an Open Door to ALL Asia!

- Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.
- GOD did something BETTER - HE BROUGHT ASIA TO PAUL!

Do you find yourself in a Season of Disappointment, Rejection, Being Sidelined? Take Courage Dear Sister, Brother - Jesus Relates AND he is SOVEREIGN!!!

"Faith means believing in advance what will only make sense in reverse." Phillip Yancey - Disappointment with God

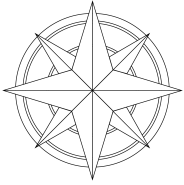
Point 3 - Relaying - Let God Work in & Through!

Acts 19:11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

DO YOU SEE GOD'S ENERGY?

- IT IS GOD - Doing the Extra Ordinary
- IT IS GOD - Through Paul!

Acts 19:13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command



ACTS : The Ripple Effect

Acts 19:1-22 | Abel Mendez | Aug 2, 2026

you to come out.” 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. Acts 19:17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.

18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned (scrolls) publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas (\$7M-\$10M). 20 In this way the word of the Lord 1- spread widely and 2- grew in 3- power.

BONFIRE IMAGE! (When a Ripple becomes a Wave)

Tree Image:

The Word of God Spread (Outward) - Think Branches - People were Reached

- Greek verb indicates a continual growth and expansion so that more and more people came to faith.

The Word of God Grew (Inward) - Think Roots - People were Transformed

- Producing real transformation in the hearts of people, so they were willing to abandon the practices that controlled them.

The Word of God Grew in Power (Prevailed) - Others were Threatened!

- Because of these things, Demetrius and the Idol-Makers of Ephesus would Riot (See Ephesians 19:23-40)

IMAGE OF BIG WAVE : Demetrius and the Silversmiths get Caught inside!!!! (Read Acts 19:23-41)

Conclusion:

What Does Bonfire, Big Wave have in Common?

When We Receive, Respond, and Relay, GOD DOES BIG THINGS!!!

Every One of Us are Invited to Play a Part

- We see the Way of Paul, We See the Way of Jesus
- We see the Sovereignty of God
- We see the Ripple Effect of God’s Kingdom Moving Forward

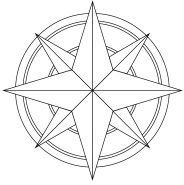
Remember these 2 Things...

1 - In Christ we are SAVED FROM Judgement & SAVED FOR Mission

2- Our Mission Gives Our Meaning (Purpose)

Connection is the Way to Participate

- Alpha, Community Groups, Home Groups Women’s Fall Study, MomCo, Young Adults, Couples and Families Fall Groups, Anything and Everything is to facilitate and participate in the RIPPLE EFFECT!



ACTS : The Ripple Effect

Acts 19:1-22 | Abel Mendez | Aug 2, 2026

With or Without You (U2) God's Kingdom is moving Forward -
Get in the Water : Jump into the Waves of God's Kingdom!!!

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."