Acts 19 - Ephesus

CHARACTERS: A, B, Paul; Demetrius, A, Clerk, crowd
COSTUMES: Biblical
PROPS: none specified
SETTING: bare stage and courtroom
RUN TIME: 4 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 19
FK reading level: 5.1

Scene 1

At rise: PAUL with crowd

A: Welcome to Ephesus, Paul.

PAUL: Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?

B: No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.

PAUL: What baptism did you receive?

A: John's baptism.

PAUL: John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus

B: Then let us be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

LEADER: When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them.

ALL: God did extraordinary miracles through Paul

LEADER: Even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick

ALL: and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

Scene 2

At rise: DEMETRIUS is addressing a small crowd

DEMETRIUS: Craftsmen of Ephesus! You know that making silver shrines of Artemis has made us wealthy.
Crowd ad libs "It has", "It does"

DEMETRIUS: But a trouble maker has come among us. A man named Paul. He says that gods made by man's hands are no gods at all.

A: He's hurting our business!

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DEMETRIUS: Not just ours. All over Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people. Our trade may come into disrepute. *Crowd ad libs "No", "He's a scoundrel", "never!"*

DEMETRIUS: Not only that, the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing. She may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship. *Crowd ad libs "No", "never!" then in unison "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Town clerk enters and finally gets them quiet.*

CLERK: Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky?

A: Everyone knows that!

CLERK: Since this cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges there.

DEMETRIUS: This Paul is ruining our business

CLERK: Have it settled in the regular assembly. We really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion. You are dismissed.

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