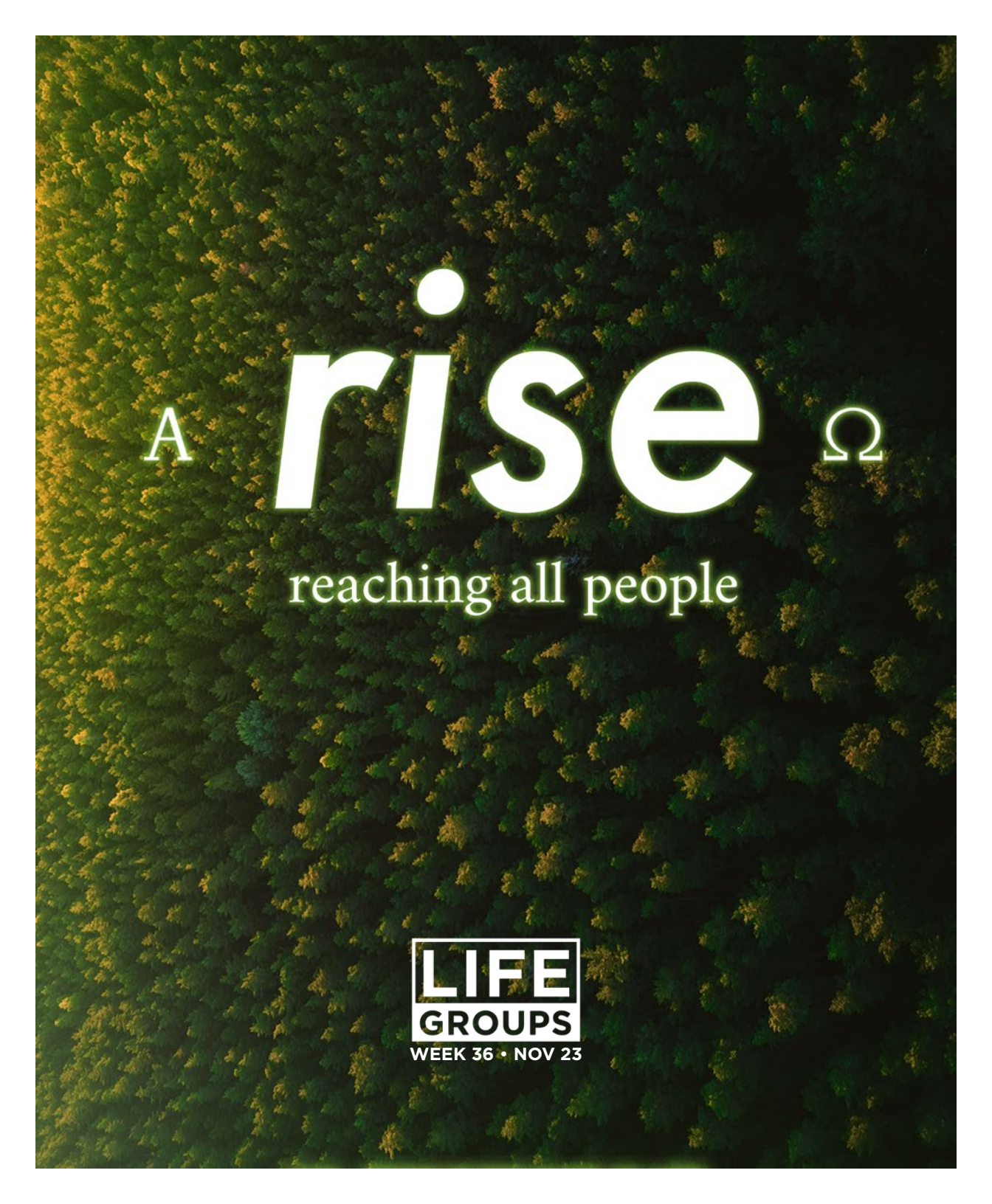




# A *rise* Ω

reaching all people



WEEK 36 • NOV 23

## **NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT**

Hope changes everything.

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### **ICE BREAKER**

What is something you learned as a child that will always be true?

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### **BACKGROUND**

Paul continues his ministry in the city of Ephesus, a major cultural and religious center known for the temple of Artemis. Paul is teaching in the synagogue for three months, teaching the Jewish community about the kingdom of God. When some become hardened and speak evil of “the Way,” Paul takes the disciples and teaches daily in the hall of Tyrannus for the next two years.

God works extraordinary miracles through Paul, leading many to renounce magical practices and publicly burn their costly books of sorcery. However, this growing Christian influence threatens the local economy tied to the worship of Artemis. Demetrius, a silversmith who makes shrines of Artemis, gathers other craftsmen and argues that Paul’s preaching endangers their livelihood and the honor of their goddess. This sparks a massive riot in the Ephesian theater, where the crowd shouts, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” for hours.

The situation grows volatile, but the town clerk eventually calms the crowd by insisting on settling the dispute properly. He reminds them that Ephesus is recognized worldwide as the guardian of Artemis’s temple, implying there is no real threat to her worship. The assembly is dismissed, and Paul ultimately leaves Ephesus soon after, with the incident highlighting both the spiritual impact of the Christian movement and the economic and social tensions it created.

### **REVIEW**

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



**KEY VERSES:** Acts 19:26

*And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods.*

**READ:** Acts 19:8-41



**HEAD LEVEL:** *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. How long did Paul speak in the synagogue and why did he leave?
2. What miracles occurred through Paul during his time in Ephesus?
3. What happened when the sons of Sceva tried to cast out a spirit? Why do you think it ended this way?

**DEEPER DISCOVERY**

Why were the Ephesian silversmiths against Paul in v.23-27? How is this like the Philippians with Paul and Silas in Acts 16:16-21? Why do you think we see multiple instances of this?



**HEART LEVEL:** *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. Christians often add “in the name of Jesus” to prayers. Is it possible to use this incorrectly, just out of habit?
2. What are some issues of a ministry that overemphasizes miracles? How did Paul keep his ministry in balance?

 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What is the focus of your ministry today and how do you maintain balance?
2. Culture is always pressing the Church to conform, minimizing our disruption of their lives. How do you speak the truth well while maintaining right relationships with those in the world?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** 1 Thessalonians 1:9  
*You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

*(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)*