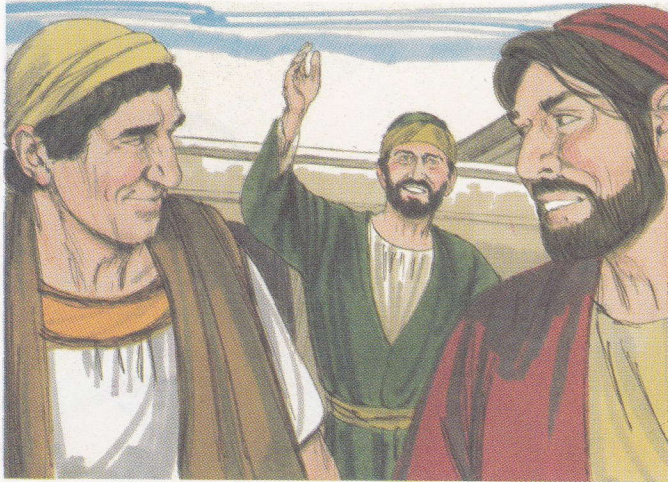
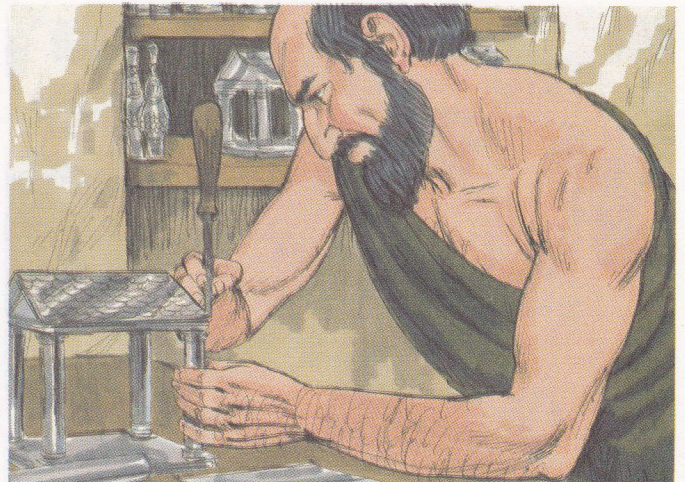


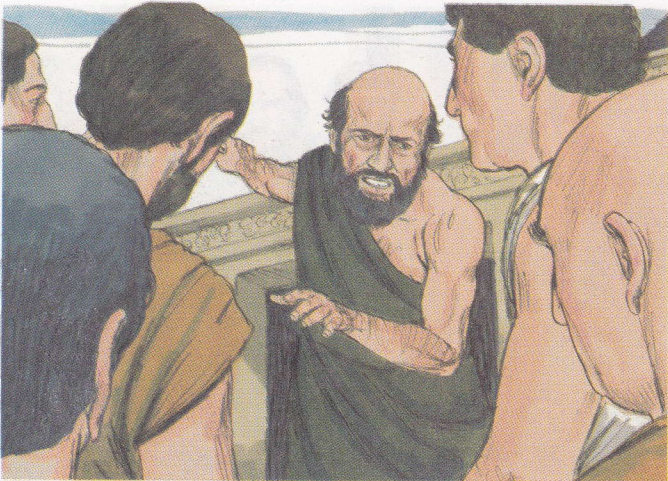
The Riot in Ephesus



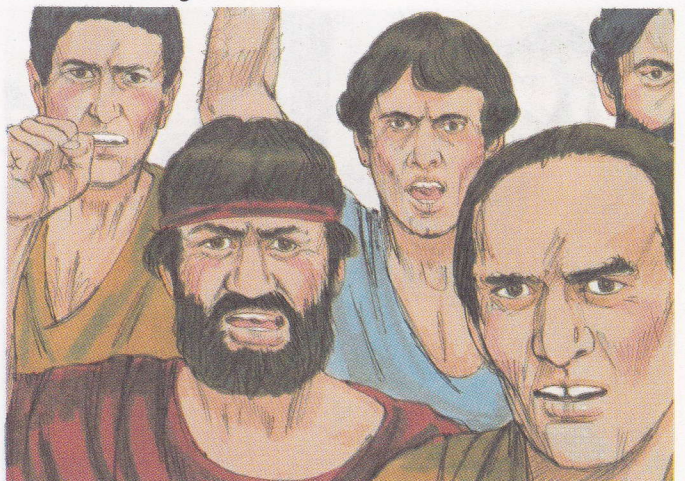
1 Paul left Corinth and traveled in Galatia and Phrygia for a while, strengthening the churches there. Then he went to Ephesus. For two years he preached there. One day some big trouble arose.



2 A man named Demetrius made silver shrines for the goddess Artemis (also called Diana). He called a meeting of all the craftsmen who depended on this business for a living.



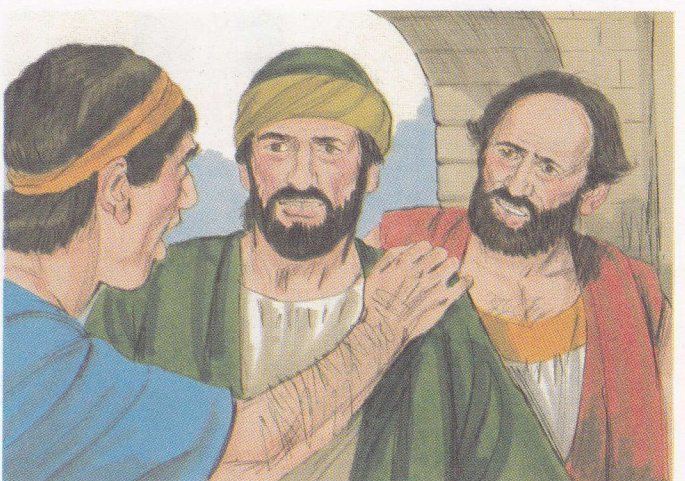
3 Demetrius said to them: "You see how Paul is hurting our business. He tells people that man-made gods are not gods at all. We may lose our jobs and the goddess will not be honored."



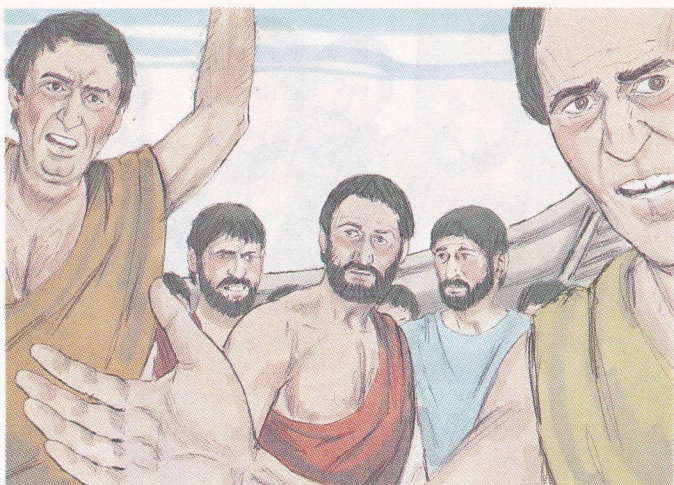
4 When the craftsmen heard these words, they were angry. They began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"



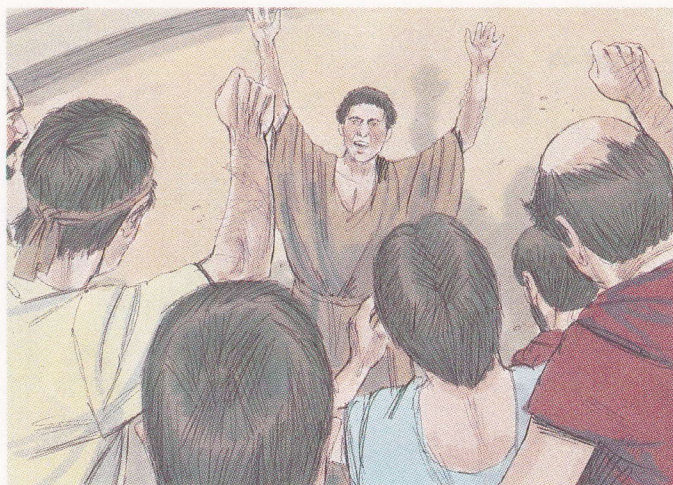
5 Before long, the whole city was in an uproar. A crowd seized Gaius and Aristarchus, two of Paul's friends, and rushed into the outdoor theater with them.



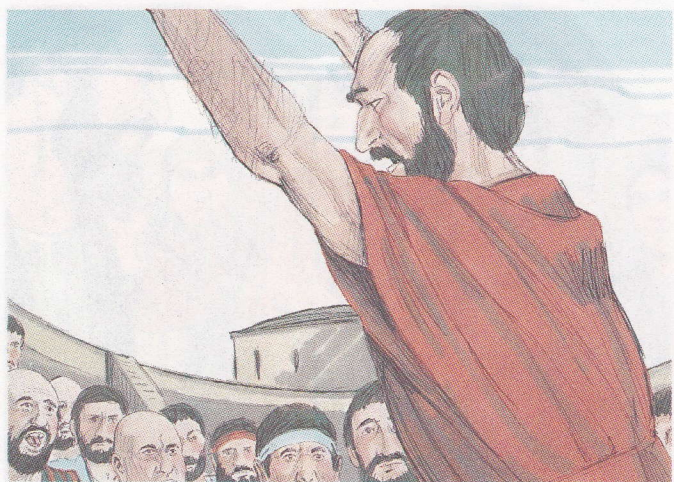
6 Paul wanted to say something to the crowd, but the other believers would not let him. Even some of the officials of the province begged Paul not to go into the theater.



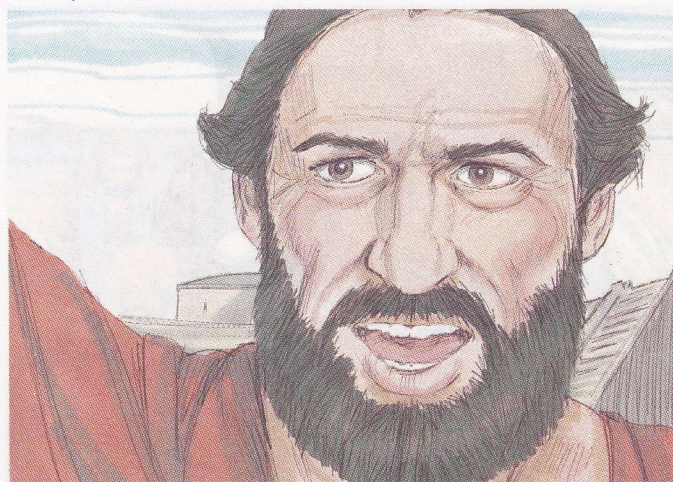
7 The crowd was in confusion. Some people shouted one thing and others something else. Most of them did not even know why they were there.



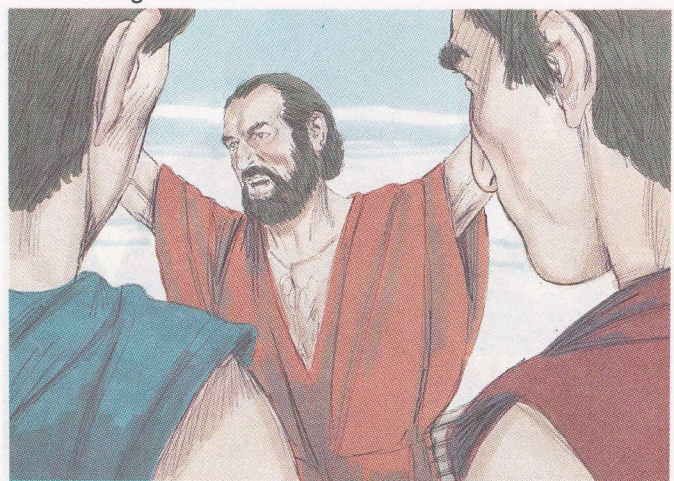
8 A man named Alexander tried to speak to the crowd. But they recognized that he was a Jew. So they shouted for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"



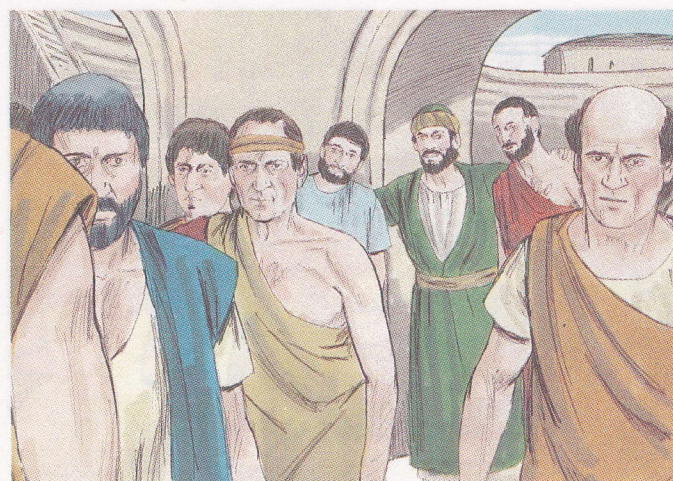
9 Finally the city clerk got the crowd quiet. He said, "People of Ephesus, don't do anything foolish. These men have not robbed a temple or said evil things about our goddess."



10 "If Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen are unhappy, they can take the matter to court. But we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of this."



11 "And if we are, we will have no excuse at all. There is no reason for this commotion."



12 After he said this, the clerk dismissed the assembly and the people went home. Paul and the other Christians were not harmed.