

## THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST

**Week Twenty - In the Name of Jesus****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*This week covers a few different groups of people at various points of understanding what it means to be immersed in the identity and power of Jesus. Some had a lacking faith, some demonstrated a lying faith, and others came to a liberating faith. The difference? Those who knew Jesus and immersed themselves in the name of Jesus were set free from all the things that entangled them. Pray we show our kids the real Jesus and invite them to be immersed into his Name.*

- **Big Idea:** There is power for freedom in the name of Jesus — and we are invited to live in his name!

**Starter****Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

**Food Coloring Activity**

If you're able, get a bowl or cup filled with water. Add a couple drops of food coloring to it. In front of the kids, dip a paper towel into the water and pull it out. Talk about how being immersed into the cup changed the color of the paper towel. This is what happens when we're immersed (baptized) into Jesus — we are changed!

**Sing Together**

## Story - from Acts 18:24-19:20

Paul left Corinth, and visited Ephesus, then Jerusalem, then finally went back home to Antioch. His friends Aquila and Priscilla stayed in Ephesus and met a Jewish man named Apollos. They heard him teaching about the Lord and he seemed to know his stuff! But even though he was saying true things, he was missing something important. He only knew about the baptism of John.

**\*\*Pro tip, kids: whenever you read the word 'baptism' in the Bible, think of the word 'immersed' or 'covered in'.\*\***

So Priscilla and Aquila pulled Apollos aside and explained the way of God to him more clearly. John had invited people to be baptized (*immersed*) into repentance, which means he was calling them to turn away from their sin to get ready for the coming King. But Apollos didn't yet know about being immersed into Jesus' name.

*It's kind of like if you were bathing in a pool of mud and your parents asked you to get out of it. Getting out of the mud is the first step, but instead of just standing there muddy, you now need to get covered with water to be clean.*

After Priscilla and Aquila taught him, Apollos believed and was immersed in the way of Jesus. He then traveled to Corinth, where Paul once was, and taught about Jesus.

Meanwhile, Paul came back to Ephesus, where Apollos once was. He met twelve followers of Jesus there and asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed. They said, *"No. We haven't even heard there is a Holy Spirit."*

*"What were you immersed into, then?"* Paul asked.

*"Into John's baptism,"* they replied.

Paul said, *"John immersed people into repentance, getting them ready to believe in Jesus who would come after him."*

Like Apollos, these men were trying to follow God and getting some things right. But they needed to know that salvation does not come through turning away from sin and trying hard to do the right things. It comes from the power of Jesus who defeated sin and death and his Spirit coming upon us to bring us true freedom. When they heard this, they were covered in the power of King Jesus and trusted the Spirit to work through them, rather than their own works. The Holy Spirit did some amazing things through those ordinary men after that!

Paul kept preaching Jesus to anyone who would listen and the Spirit did some powerful things through him, too. Amazing miracles, in fact. People were getting healed from diseases and sickness and evil spirits were sent away.

Some Jewish religious leaders heard about this. One time they were faced with a person possessed by evil spirits, so they tried to use the power Paul displayed. They said to the spirits, *"I command you by the Jesus that Paul preaches!"*

The evil spirit answered, *"I know Jesus, and I've heard of Paul — but who are you?"*

Then the man with the evil spirit jumped on them, all seven of them, and beat them up! They didn't have the power of the Spirit because they didn't know Jesus and didn't trust in His power over their own.

Many people heard about this and many people began to believe in the name of Jesus. They came together and confessed all their old ways of sin. Many brought books of magic and sorcery, because they had once trusted in other spirits besides Jesus, and they burned those books. They calculated the value of what was burned and it totaled several millions of dollars in today's money! But they decided that was worthless in comparison to finding true life and healing in the name of Jesus.

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- What does the word baptism mean?
- What was different between John's baptism and the baptism of Jesus into the Holy Spirit? Why did Apollos and the other followers need a baptism into Jesus?  
*[Remember, John's baptism of repentance was good — just incomplete]*
- What does it look like for us to be immersed or covered in the name of Jesus?  
*['In the name of...' in the Bible talks about identity. To carry the name of someone means you are part of that family. To be immersed in the name of Jesus is to take on the identity of Jesus, the perfect Son of God. This is why we are called sons and daughters!]*
- Whose work and power are we trusting when we are immersed in Jesus?
- Have you been baptized? We use water to tell the story of being covered with Jesus' power and name. Have you ever considered this?  
*[Encourage kids to talk to their parents about this. Do not steer them one way or another toward a decision.]*

## Breakout Time

### Pray:

Thank you, God, that we can come to you as your children. Thank you that we carry your name and are saved by the power of Jesus. Thank you for your Spirit giving us power to live the way you call us to. Help us to grow in that. Amen.

### Craft:

- Use the coloring sheet attached and talk about these words spoken by the Father at Jesus' baptism. When we are immersed into Jesus, the Father says these words over us too!
- The last page has a cut, color, glue, and fold craft. Cut out the cross as one piece and the dotted squares as 5 individual pieces. On each square, draw something that represents how they can live out the corresponding BLESS rhythm. Glue each square to a blank section of the cross. You can fold each square of the cross over on top of the center, so that it looks like one square at the end. This represents a life they can live out that is **in** Christ.

## BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Speak** rhythm. Is there someone at school, home, or your neighborhood who needs to hear the good news of Jesus? Ask the Spirit to give you the power to share.



This MY'S  
beloved

Matthew 3:17

son, in whom

I am well

Please

**BLESS**

In the Name of  
Jesus  
In the Power of the  
Spirit

**LISTEN**

**EAT**

**SPEAK**

**SABBATH**