

THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST

**Week Fourteen - What's In A Name?****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

This week's text has a fascinating story that seems reminiscent of other stories we've heard so far in Acts, though with a different outcome. There are a lot of names and it can be confusing, so slow down when you read the story, remind them which character is who, and help kids make the connections that exist with previous parts of the story. Overall, make sure Jesus is seen on display!

- **Big Idea:** We get to carry the name of Jesus — may we see how good that is!

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.
- **Ask:** Do any of you know what your name means? Why did your parents choose that for you? If you were to choose a name for yourself, what would it be and why? What meaning/significance does that have for you?

Sing Together

Story - from Acts 13:1-12

In the city of Antioch, within the community of Jesus followers, there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'), Simeon who was called Niger (which means 'black'), Lucius of Cyrene (Lucius mean 'white' or 'light'), Manaen (meaning 'comforter'), who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, *"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."* Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.

So being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. Arriving in Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John Mark as their assistant. When they had traveled the whole island as far as Paphos, they came across a sorcerer, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus (his name meant 'son of salvation'). He was with the Roman governor, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God. But Bar-Jesus, who was also called Elymas because it means 'the sorcerer', opposed them and tried to turn the governor away from the faith.

But Saul—who was also called Paul—filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at Elymas and said, *"You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery, you son of the devil and enemy of all that is right. Won't you ever stop perverting the straight paths of the Lord? Now, look, the Lord's hand is against you. You are going to be blind, and will not see the sun for a time."*

Immediately a mist and darkness fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

Then, when he saw what happened, the governor believed, because he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- ▶ Think about the meaning of Bar-Jesus: son of salvation. Why do you think his Jewish parents named him that?
- ▶ What do you think it means that he chose to go by a different name, Elymas (the sorcerer)? How is that a big difference from his given name? Was he living up to the name his parents gave him?
- ▶ Bar-Jesus means 'son of salvation', but Paul called him the 'son of the devil'. Why?
- ▶ Do you remember when Saul/Paul first met Jesus? Do you remember that he was blinded too? How was Elymas' blinding similar? How was it different?

[Saul recognized the Lord when he saw him. He had some humility.]

- ▶ What name are we all given to live by?

[Remember, Jesus said we are to be baptized into the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit. You get to be a son/daughter of God — because of Jesus!]

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, help us to see you more clearly. Help us to find our identity in your name alone. It is in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Craft:

- Use the coloring sheet attached
- Make eyeglasses using paper or pipe cleaners. Talk about how we were once blind to God but Jesus has made us see.



BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Bless** rhythm. Who has a need around you that you or your family can help meet? It may even be as simple as spending time with someone who needs a friend!

