

# 09 AUTHENTIC FAITH

**KEY TEXT:** ACTS 19:11-20

## CENTRAL truth

In this week's passage, we'll see a group of Jewish exorcists attempt to misuse the Lord's name for their own benefit. They claimed to know Jesus, but they were inauthentic followers, and because of this, things didn't go their way. **Truly following Jesus and obeying Him leads us to live in a way that honors Him.**

## key question

**What does this passage teach us about the name of Jesus?**

Jesus is a King to be worshiped and honored, not a means to an end. Paul wasn't using magic incantations to perform his miracles. He was the Lord's servant, and he was being used by the Lord for His mission. When we use Jesus's name in prayer, it does not guarantee that we'll get our way. Rather, it is an invitation for the Lord to carry out His will in each of us and in our world.

## keep in mind

- In this week's passage, we read about the Lord performing miracles through Paul. Some students may ask if miraculous healings can still happen today. Using this session's **Theology note** to assist you, help students to see that God is abundantly able to perform miraculous healings today, but we must humbly submit to His rule—even if it means we don't experience physical healing before Jesus's return.
- Through their devotion to King Jesus, the Ephesian believers were mobilized to confess and publicly repent of sin. Though it's difficult to do, we must embrace the practice of confession in community. Remind students that we need other believers to pray for us, encourage us, and challenge us. Invite students to think of ways that they can make this a regular practice within the group.

## application

**What are some practices or ideas that we may need to give up to honor the Lord?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students should feel challenged, through their love and admiration for the Lord, to let go of ideas and practices that don't honor Him. Though it may be costly, doing so is worth it.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Challenge students to ask the Lord and other mature believers to help them identify practices or ideas that they may need to give up to honor Him. Help them to see confession and repentance as gifts.

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