



BASED ON ACTS 19:13-20

# THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME



A SONS OF SCEVA  
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE  
FOR AGES 11-14

# How to Use This Book

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Welcome to an adventure where YOU step into one of the strangest and most intense stories in Acts—the day seven brothers tried to use Jesus’ name like a magic word, and met a very real, very dangerous demon..

## **How it works:**

- Start at Section 1.
- Read each section carefully.
- At the end of each section, choose what YOU would do.
- Follow the directions to the next section number.
- Keep going until you reach an ending.

Some paths lead to pride and humiliation, some to fear and secrets, and some to genuine repentance, freedom, and Jesus being honored.

## **Tips:**

- You can read this alone or as a group (vote on choices together).
- Try different paths to see how the story changes.
- Pay attention to what happens when you treat Jesus’ name like a label vs. a Lord, and when you hide sin vs. bring it into the light.
- Keep a Bible open to Acts 19:13–20 as you read.

**Remember:** The seven sons of Sceva tried to drive out demons “by the Jesus whom Paul preaches”—but they didn’t actually know Jesus. The demon answered, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” Then the possessed man attacked them, and they ran out naked and bleeding. The result? Fear fell on the whole city, and the name of Jesus was held in high honor.

# A City Full of Power

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## Section 1

You live in Ephesus, a huge, busy city famous for its magic, idols, and spiritual power. People come from all over the region to buy magic scrolls, say secret spells, and ask for help from all kinds of gods.

Recently, a man named Paul has been preaching about Jesus. Crazy things are happening:

- People are healed.
- Evil spirits leave when he prays in Jesus' name.
- Even cloths that touched Paul are bringing healing to others.

Everyone is talking about it. Some say, "*Jesus is the true Lord!*" Others say, "*Wow, that name really works!*" You are one of the seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest. Your family has a reputation for dealing with spiritual things. People pay you to try to drive out evil spirits. You use prayers, rituals, and special words.

But lately, business is down. Because now, people are going to Paul and the Christians.

One day, your brothers gather in secret.

*“We’ve seen it,” one says. “When Paul uses the name ‘Jesus,’ demons leave.”*

*“Yeah,” another agrees. “Clearly that name has power. Why don’t we use it too?”*

*“But we don’t follow Jesus,” you say. “We just... know about Him.”*

*“Does it matter?” a brother shrugs. “If the name works, let’s use it.”*

They all look at you, waiting.

### **What do you do?**

- If you agree to join your brothers and try using Jesus’ name as part of your exorcism, go to **Section 2**.
- If you hesitate and suggest talking to Paul first to understand who Jesus really is, go to **Section 3**.
- If you decide this is too risky and refuse to be part of it, go to **Section 4**.

# Borrowed Power

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## Section 2

You give in. *“Fine,” you say. “We’ll say the words. What’s the worst that could happen?”*

Your brothers find a man in the city who is known to be possessed by an evil spirit. He is wild, unpredictable, and frightening—but you’ve dealt with this kind of thing before.

You all crowd into his house. The air feels thick. The man’s eyes flicker with something dark.

You step forward. Your brothers stand behind you.

*“In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches,” you say loudly, “I command you to come out!”*

The room goes very, very still.

The man’s head tilts. His eyes focus on you with unnatural clarity.

Then, in a voice that is not his own, he speaks:

*“Jesus I know, and Paul I know about... but who are you?”*

A chill runs down your spine.

### **What do you do?**

- If you bluff and repeat the command louder, trying to sound confident, go to **Section 5**.
- If you suddenly realize how dangerous this is and try to back away, go to **Section 6**.

# Wanting to Understand First

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## Section 3

*“Wait,” you say to your brothers. “We don’t even know this Jesus. We just know about Him. Maybe we should talk to Paul first.”*

Your brothers roll their eyes. *“We don’t have time for sermons,”* one mutters. *“This is about power, not theology.”*

But you’re not so sure.

Later, you quietly find your way to the gathering where Paul is teaching. You slip into the back and listen.

He talks about:

- Jesus as Lord, not just a magic name.
- People turning from idols and magic to serve the living God.
- A cross, a resurrection, and a call to repent and believe.

You realize: this isn’t about learning a new spell. It’s about surrendering your life.

After the meeting, you have a choice.

### **What do you do?**

- If you stay afterward, talk to Paul, and consider truly following Jesus, go to **Section 7**.
- If you walk away thinking, “Interesting, but I just wanted power,” go to **Section 8**.

# Refusing to Play with Fire

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## Section 4

*“I’m not doing it,” you say firmly. “We can’t just play with names we don’t understand. If Jesus is really Lord, then His name isn’t a toy.”*

Your brothers scoff. *“Fine,”* one says. *“We’ll do it without you.”*

You watch them leave, a knot forming in your stomach. Later that day, rumors explode through Ephesus. People are talking in hushed, shocked tones.

*“You heard what happened? Those seven brothers tried to cast out a demon using Jesus’ name.”*

*“What happened?”*

*“The demon said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?’ Then the possessed man jumped them. They ran out of the house naked and bleeding!”*

You feel sick. That could have been you.

But you also feel something else: a holy fear. This Jesus is not to be messed with.

That night, you go to where the Christians are meeting. You sit in the back, shake your head, and whisper, *“Lord, I want to know You for real—not just use Your name.”*

It’s the beginning of a new journey.

### **END 1 – “The One Who Refused to Fake It”**

You chose not to treat Jesus’ name like a trick or brand, and it saved you from humiliation; wisdom sometimes looks like walking away from spiritual games.

# Louder Words, Same Heart

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## Section 5

Your heart is pounding, but your pride kicks in. You can't back down now.

*"In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you—come out!"* you shout again, louder, trying to sound bold.

The demon-possessed man smiles. It is not a kind smile.

In a burst of terrifying strength, he launches himself at you and your brothers.

He grabs, hits, throws, scratches. Your robes tear. You scream. Your brothers pile in, but he's stronger than all of you together.

Within moments, you are all scrambling for the door, clothes ripped, skin bleeding, hearts racing with pure terror.

You burst out into the street naked and bleeding, running for your lives.

People stare. Someone gasps, “Aren’t those Sceva’s sons?”

You keep running.

Later, shaking in a locked room, you replay the demon’s words in your mind:

*“Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”*

You used the right words, but you didn’t have the right relationship.

### **What happens next?**

- If this humiliation hardens your heart and you blame God, go to **Section 9**.
- If this humiliation breaks your pride and drives you to repentance, go to **Section 10**.

# Trying to Back Out

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## Section 6

The demon's question slices through your confidence:  
*"Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?"*

You step back. *"Maybe we should—"*

Too late.

The possessed man lunges. You and your brothers are no match for the strength working through him.

He attacks—tearing clothes, scratching skin, throwing bodies against walls. You yell. You try to escape.

You finally burst out of the house naked and bleeding, sprinting down the street in horror as people point and whisper.

You've never been so humiliated in your life.

That night, alone, you stare at your bruises and shredded clothes.

You tried to back away, but you still treated Jesus' name like a tool instead of surrendering to Him as Lord.

Now you have a choice.

### **What do you do?**

- If you hide, pretend it never happened, and keep living the same way, go to **Section 9**.
- If you let this wake you up and run toward Jesus instead of away, go to **Section 10**.

# Meeting the Real Jesus

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## Section 7

After the meeting, you approach Paul.

*“Sir,” you say, “I’ve been using prayers and rituals for years. My family even tries to cast out demons. But lately, I’ve watched what happens when you pray in Jesus’ name. What’s the difference?”*

Paul looks you in the eyes.

*“The difference,” he says gently, “is that I belong to Jesus. His Spirit lives in me. I don’t just use His name—I live under His authority. The name isn’t a spell. It’s a relationship.”*

You swallow. *“What would it mean for me to belong to Him?”*

Paul explains the good news:

- Jesus died for your sins.
- He rose again and is Lord of all.
- He calls you to repent—to turn from dead works, magic, and pride—and trust Him.

You think about your family's business. Your reputation. Your pride.

**What do you do?**

- If you decide to surrender and truly follow Jesus, go to **Section 11**.
- If you decide the cost is too high and walk away, go to **Section 8**.

# “Interesting, But Not for Me”

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## Section 8

You leave the meeting deep in thought.

*“Jesus as Lord... turning from magic... burning scrolls...”*  
*you whisper. “That sounds intense.”*

You like your life. You like your status. You like that people respect your family. You don’t want to give that up.

*“Maybe I can just borrow the name of Jesus when I need it,”* you think. *“No need to go all-in.”*

You never fully surrender. You stay on the edge—close enough to hear about Jesus, far enough to keep your own control.

Weeks later, you hear what happened to your brothers: the failed exorcism, the demon’s words, the naked and bleeding sprint through the streets. Everyone is talking about it. Everyone is now afraid—and the name of Jesus is held in high honor.

You realize with a stab of fear: you almost tried the same thing.

But you also realize something sad: you're still standing on the outside. You respect Jesus' power. You fear what He can do. But you don't actually know Him.

## **END 2 – “The Almost Disciple”**

You were close enough to hear the truth but chose to stay in control; fear of losing your life kept you from finding real life in Jesus.

# Hiding in Shame

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## Section 9

You are furious and humiliated.

*“How could God let that happen?”* you snap. *“We used Jesus’ name! Isn’t that supposed to work?”*

Deep down, you know the truth: you tried to use a name without knowing the Person.

But instead of letting this soften you, you let it harden you.

You avoid the Christians. You refuse to talk about what happened. You make up stories:

- *“It wasn’t as bad as they say.”*
- *“The man cheated.”*
- *“The demon was extra strong—that’s all.”*

But the story spreads anyway. The whole city hears what happened. People are afraid to play with spiritual power now. Many realize Jesus is not a toy.

Meanwhile, you hide—in anger, in shame, in pride.

You could have let this moment drive you to Jesus. Instead, you run from Him.

### **END 3 – “The Pride That Stayed Wounded”**

You let humiliation turn into bitterness instead of repentance; pride cares more about saving face than saving your soul.

# Letting Humiliation Become Humility

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## Section 10

You sit alone, shaking. Your bruises throb. Your pride is shattered.

*“Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”*

The demon’s words echo in your head.

For the first time, you stop blaming and start listening. *“He was right,”* you whisper. *“I don’t know Jesus. I’ve been using His name like a spell.”*

You make a decision: no more pretending.

You go to the place where the Christians gather. People recognize you. Some whisper. You swallow your pride.

*“I... I was one of the sons of Sceva,”* you say, voice trembling. *“We tried to use Jesus’ name without knowing Him. It ended badly. But I don’t want to just borrow His name anymore. I want to belong to Him.”*

They listen. They don't laugh. Instead, they share how Jesus has forgiven their sins and broken their chains. Someone opens a scroll and reads about Jesus' death and resurrection. Another prays for you.

You kneel and say, *“Jesus, I've treated Your name like a tool. I'm sorry. I turn away from my magic, my pride, my fake spirituality. I want You as Lord, not just as a word. I give You my life.”*

Heaven hears.

Everything changes.

Go to **Section 11**.

# Bringing Sin into the Light

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## Section 11

As more and more people hear what happened with the sons of Sceva, something surprising starts to happen in Ephesus.

People who practiced magic and secret arts start feeling convicted. They've been hiding scrolls, spells, and spiritual shortcuts for years.

But now they realize: this is dangerous.

They don't want fake power anymore. They want Jesus.

One night, a group of believers gather in a public place. You're there too.

One by one, they bring out magic scrolls and books—expensive ones. Stuff they spent fortunes on. They know these scrolls don't just represent money; they represent trusting in something other than Jesus.

Someone lights a fire.

Slowly, shakily, people start throwing their scrolls in.

- Spells.
- Curses.
- Secret names.
- “Protection” rituals.

The flames rise.

You reach into your robe and pull out your own collection—a small satchel of charms and written formulas your family has used for years.

Your hand trembles.

### **What do you do?**

- If you hold onto your scrolls “just in case,” go to **Section 12**.
- If you throw them into the fire and fully cut ties with your old life, go to **Section 13**.

# Halfway In

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## Section 12

You clutch your scrolls tight.

*“I’ll follow Jesus,” you tell yourself, “but it might be smart to keep a backup plan. Just in case.”*

You slip the satchel back under your robe.

You still go to Christian gatherings. You still listen to teaching. You even stop doing public magic.

But privately, you keep one foot in your old life. When you feel scared, tempted, or out of control, you still reach for your old spells, *“just to be safe.”*

You never experience the full freedom others talk about. You always feel torn, divided.

You respect Jesus. You even call Him Lord with your mouth.

But your hidden stash of magic says something else: you don’t fully trust Him.

## **END 4 – “The Secret Backup Plan”**

You said Jesus was enough, but you kept spiritual backup plans just in case; real freedom comes when you burn the bridges to your old masters.

# The Fire of Freedom

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## Section 13

Your heart races. Your fingers dig into the scrolls in your hand.

*“These cost me so much,”* you think. *“Money, time, reputation...”*

Then another thought comes:

*“These scrolls are lies.”*

You step forward.

With shaking hands, you toss your satchel into the fire. The flames grab the scrolls, curl the edges, turn the words to smoke. Years of secrets, manipulation, and fake control go up in a crackling blaze.

Around you, others do the same. Luke later writes that the value of the scrolls burned that day was fifty thousand drachmas—a fortune.

It doesn't matter. Jesus is worth more.

As the fire burns, something burns inside you too: your old identity as a “*spiritual expert*” who relied on tricks and spells.

In its place grows something new: a simple, strong trust in Jesus alone.

Word spreads through Ephesus. People are seized with holy fear. The name of the Lord Jesus is held in high honor. The message of the Lord spreads widely and grows in power.

And you? You’re not just “Sceva’s son” anymore. You’re a disciple of Jesus—known in heaven, known in hell, and learning to live with nothing hidden.

## **END 5 – “The Bonfire of the Old Life”**

You didn’t just sprinkle Jesus on top of your old ways—you burned the bridge and chose Him fully; real honor for Jesus shows up in what we’re willing to let go of.

# All the Endings

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Check them off, then read the wisdom that goes with each one.

- **END 1 – “The One Who Refused to Fake It”**
  - It’s better to walk away from fake spirituality than to play games with holy things; Jesus’ name is not a toy.
- **END 2 – “The Almost Disciple”**
  - Respecting Jesus from a distance isn’t the same as following Him; almost surrendering is still holding on.
- **END 3 – “The Pride That Stayed Wounded”**
  - Pride cares more about your image than your soul; God can use embarrassment to humble you, if you’ll let Him.
- **END 4 – “The Secret Backup Plan”**
  - As long as you keep backup gods, you’ll never fully trust Jesus; real freedom means cutting off secret escape routes.
- **END 5 – “The Bonfire of the Old Life”**
  - When Jesus is truly Lord, we’re willing to destroy what once defined us; repentance is costly but beautiful.

# Five Truths You Can Carry

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- **TRUTH 1: Jesus' name is not a magic word—it's the name of a living Lord.**
  - The sons of Sceva tried to use Jesus' name like a spell. The demon saw right through it. Power isn't in memorized phrases; it's in belonging to Jesus.
- **TRUTH 2: Hell knows who truly belongs to Jesus.**
  - *“Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”* Demons recognize those who walk in real relationship with Christ—not just those who say His name.
- **TRUTH 3: Embarrassment can be a mercy if it leads you to repentance.**
  - Being exposed (naked and bleeding) was awful—but it became the spark for a city-wide move of repentance and honor for Jesus' name.
- **TRUTH 4: Hidden sin and backup plans keep you from full freedom.**
  - The believers burned their scrolls—even though they were worth a fortune. They didn't want to keep secret options that competed with Jesus' lordship.

- **TRUTH 5: When Jesus' name is truly honored, the gospel spreads in power.**
  - After the sons of Sceva incident and the scroll-burning, "*the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.*" Honoring Jesus' name isn't just personal—it impacts whole communities.

# Discussion Questions

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Use these questions after going through at least one path:

1. What surprised you most about the sons of Sceva story? The demon's words, the attack, or the huge scroll-burning afterward? Why?
2. What's the difference between "*using Jesus' name*" and actually knowing Jesus?
3. The demon said, "*Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?*" If a demon looked at your life, what would it see—someone who just knows about Jesus, or someone who belongs to Him?
4. What are some modern "*magic scrolls*" people trust in instead of Jesus? (Not just literal spells—think about crystals, horoscopes, "manifesting," lucky objects.)
5. Have you ever tried to "borrow" someone else's faith (your parents', your friends') instead of having your own relationship with Jesus? What did that look like?
6. The believers burned very expensive scrolls to break with their old life. What might it cost you to fully follow Jesus?
7. What would it look like for "*the name of the Lord Jesus*" to be held in high honor in your life this week? Be specific.

# What Are YOUR “Backup Plans”?

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Think about the things you secretly trust in “*just in case*” Jesus doesn’t come through:

- **Spiritual** (horoscopes, crystals, “manifesting,” superstition, “good luck” items):
- **Relational** (people you run to instead of God when you’re hurting):
- **Emotional** (habits or escapes you use to feel okay—screens, food, self-harm, fantasies):
- **Religious** (going through motions: saying the right words, acting spiritual, but not really trusting Jesus):
- **Identity** (things that define you more than being Jesus’ disciple—achievements, image, reputation):

Now ask:

What needs to go into the “bonfire” so that Jesus is truly my only Lord?

# Prayer

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Lord God,

Your name is above every name. Forgive me for the times I've treated Your name like a label, a good luck charm, or just a religious word. I don't want to just know about You—I want to truly know You and belong to You.

Show me where I've been trusting in other things—spiritual shortcuts, secret habits, or backup plans. Give me the courage to bring them into the light and to let them go, even if it costs me something.

Thank You that You are stronger than every evil spirit, stronger than every sin, stronger than my pride and shame. Teach me to honor Your name with my whole life, not just with my words. Let my story, even my embarrassing and broken parts, become a testimony to Your power.

May Your name be held in high honor in my heart, in my home, in my church, and in my city.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



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Step into the world of Ephesus—a city obsessed with magic, power, and secret knowledge. Walk alongside the sons of Sceva as they try to borrow Jesus’ name without knowing Him and face a terrifying wake-up call. Along the way, you’ll choose between pride and repentance, secrecy and light, backup plans and burning your old life.

Inside, you’ll:

- Experience one of the Bible’s strangest and most intense spiritual showdowns
- Explore multiple endings that show what happens when we fake it vs. truly follow Jesus
- Discover five core truths about the power and honor of Jesus’ name

**Scripture basis:**

Acts 19:13–20

**Recommended age:**

11–14

**“When this became known...  
they were all seized with fear,  
and the name of the Lord  
Jesus was held in high honor.”**

Acts 19:17