

## *Two Kinds of Baptism*

By Marge Nelson

Drama Based on Mark 1:4–11 and Acts 19:1–7

Paul: (shaking the disciple's hand). My name is Paul, an apostle of the Lord Jesus. I am so glad to meet you. It's good to find believers here in Ephesus. Tell me, when you were baptized, did you also receive the Holy Spirit?

Disciple: I don't think so. This is the first time we have even heard of the Holy Spirit.

Paul: Oh my! What was your baptism about then?

Disciple: We were following the teachings of John. He was a no-nonsense sort of guy, who dressed simply, lived in the wilderness and ate locusts and wild honey. We found him down at the Jordan River calling people to repent, be baptized, and receive God's forgiveness. So we confessed our sins and were baptized in water.

Paul: Ah, but there's more to the story! John also told the people that another was coming who was even greater. John said, "I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." That was Jesus, the Christ.

Disciple: How does that Holy Spirit kind of baptism happen?

Paul: For Jesus, it was described this way. John baptized him at his request and when they came up out of the water, John saw the heavens open. The Spirit descending the way a dove comes down to earth until it rested on Jesus. Then a voice from heaven said, "You are my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased."

Disciple: Wow! I wish I could have been there. So what you're saying is that there are really two baptisms: one of water and one of the Spirit. We want this second baptism, too. Where do we go to get it?

Paul: Bring the other believers. I will lay my hands on them and say a prayer, confirming upon them the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then your baptisms will be complete.

Disciple: Wait here! Don't go away! I must find my brothers and sisters in the faith. What good news I have to share with them!