

200105 Acts 8:9-25 Simon the Sorcerer

- Remind yourselves of the context and then the story by reading 8:9-25.
- What was the last thing that left you amazed? Maybe a view, a meal, a show or sport?
- Simon the sorcerer had a following of people and amazed them by what he did. What is your view of 'magic'? Is there a line that is crossed from entertainment or tricks to something more sinister and dark, even demonic or supernatural. Discuss this as a group.
- The Samaritans pedestalled Simon and even deified him. Why do you think that we have a tendency as human beings to want to do this to others? What are the dangers of this for both us and others?
- Making something an idol is not always about bowing down to statues! How can we make things idols in our lives; what does that mean? Again discuss as a group where the lines for something like that might be; what is the difference between something being good and helpful and beneficial or even a motivator and it becoming a dominating or unhealthy influence?
- We need to allow God's voice to become the loudest one in our lives. Ben said God speaks through His Word (Bible), His Spirit and His People (amongst other things). Which one of those three does God to speak to you most through and specifically how?
- Read vs. 12. What is the summary of Philip's preaching? Philip neither seems to deny nor fixate on the sin or Simon's sorcery – rather he elevates the Gospel and the name of Jesus. What lesson can we learn from this about how we confront sin in our culture?
- What would be the summary of the message of your life? Would it look anything like vs. 12?
- Ben described moving into Samaria and people coming to faith there as 'stage 3' – what did he mean by this (look at Acts 1:8 as a clue!).
- Peter and John come as Apostles into the situation. What is your understanding of the role of Apostles then and apostolic gifting today?
- The Holy Spirit is described in many different ways and in coming in many different ways, why do you think this is? What is the danger of having a 'formula' for the way in which the Holy Spirit 'must' act?
- Ben finished by saying the role of the Holy Spirit is essential in salvation and sanctification – essentially we need the Holy Spirit to become Christians and then live as Christians. We continually need more of God's Holy Spirit – how can we become more Spirit-filled?
- Pray for one another for a filling of God's Holy Spirit. Be creative in how you might do this.