

SERIES OVERVIEW The book of Acts tells the story of the gospel advancing from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. As we walk through this missional narrative together, our prayer is that God would breathe fresh wind into our sails—motivating and inspiring us to join Him in the work He's still doing today.

[Acts Video Overview](#)

CONTEXT In Acts 8:4-25, Philip spreads the gospel in Samaria, performing miracles that lead many to believe in Jesus Christ, including Simon the sorcerer. However, when Peter and John arrive, they lay hands on the new believers, granting them the Holy Spirit, and Simon's misguided attempt to buy this power leads to a stern rebuke and call for repentance.

THE BIG IDEA The power of the Holy Spirit can't be bought or manipulated. Experiencing his power is about surrender, not control.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:4-25

4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them & many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city. 9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. 10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is

SCRIPTURE CONTINUED: the power of God that is called Great." 11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God & the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. 14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter & John, 15 who came down & prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them & they received the Holy Spirit. 18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours & pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." 24 And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me." 25 Now when they had testified & spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

THE BOOK OF ACTS

A CROSSPOINT CITY
SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICE BREAKER

Share the craziest magic trick or illusion you've ever witnessed or performed. Bonus if you can explain how they did it.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(Refer to **Week 17** of your ACTS Journal.)

Read Acts 8:4-8. The Gospel is for every person! What's the significance of Philip sharing the Gospel in Samaria? What group of people is the hardest to share Jesus with today and what makes them so difficult?

Philip shared the Gospel through proclamation AND demonstration. As a group explain each and discuss why both are important to sharing the Gospel. What are the inadequacies of using only one of them?

Read Acts 8:9-13. What's the difference between Simon's dark magic and the magic of people like David Copperfield?

As Simon and Philip performed great signs that astounded people, how did they differ in who they were pointing people to? Do your words and actions point people to Jesus or you?

Read Acts 8:14-25. Simon reverts back to his old ways and tries to use God to get what he wants. What does this passage say Simon was wanting? Share a time when you "bargained" with God to get what you want but made it look spiritual or churchy.

In your opinion, was Simon's conversion real? How does Peter's rebuke in verses 20-24 and the Gospel impact your answer?

Discussion continued:

The Holy Spirit and his power is a gift, therefore we can't pay for it or earn it. How does the Holy Spirit make it possible to follow Jesus on a daily basis?

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Pray for your ONE & opportunities to tell them about Jesus and show them the difference Jesus makes in your life.

Closing Prayer.(come back together as a group)

God, we humble ourselves and confess we need you Holy Spirit to live a life that demonstrates and proclaims your Gospel. May we extend to others the same love, grace and peace that you extend to us. In all our words, actions and thoughts, may we honor you God. Thank you Jesus, amen!



Info & Registration [HERE](#)

Available Dates: Aug. 28/29, Sept. 11/12,
Oct. 23/24, Nov. 6/7