

November 20, 2011

Willow Park South  
Small Group Questions  
*Acts 8:1-25*

- Please read *Acts 8:1-25* together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

**In verse 4, we see that Philip, a deacon in the church, went out to Samaria to proclaim the Gospel. Because of the signs and healings that Philip performed in Jesus' name, the people in Samaria, including a man named Simon who practiced magic, paid attention to him.**

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had received the word of God, who did they send?

Why was Peter and John sent?

- **Acts 8:15-16** (ESV) *"[Peter and John] came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."*

Why do you think Simon wanted the power to give the Holy Spirit also?

How did Peter and John respond to Simon's request?

**Philip and the Apostle's power pointed to the glory of Jesus, but Simon was fixed on the power, not Jesus. Similarly, as Christians our focus should be on the God of the blessing not the blessings of God.**

Is it wrong to receive blessings from God?

At what point does it become wrong to focus on God's blessings?

For what reason does God bless our lives?

- God gives us blessings to point back to Him and have the Giver the focus of our worship, not the gift.

What are some blessings that God has given you which you can internally praise him for?

**Although Simon believed in Jesus and was baptized (vs. 13), we see that he was not truly a follower of Christ because his heart was focused on God's gifts and had not been transformed by the Gospel.**

Is it possible to believe Jesus but not be saved?

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-2** *"I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain."*

What was Simon missing? Did he ever repent of sin?

Why is it important for us to be humbled before God and recognize our unworthiness?

Why is repentance such a vital part of our ongoing relationship with God?

**True faith in Jesus is gift from God and is evident by who and what we worship in our lives. If we truly believe in Jesus, we put our trust and focus in Him. Jesus lived a perfect life on our behalf and died the death we should have died in order to reconcile us back to God the father for all of eternity. Because of this He is most worthy of our time, focus and worship.**