



Week 4: September 12-18

Welcome/ Introduce Guests/ Share Life (10 minutes) Recall the Guidelines/ Open in Prayer

Vision Casting (2 minutes): A disciple-making culture must have a reproducible process. Our reproducible process is to love one another well and tell stories from God's word. Let's enter into this process today so we can continue to make disciples who make disciples.

Hook Question (5 minutes): When have you had a wrong motive to do something that was perceived as good?

Ask someone to read the background for the story (2 minutes):

The use of magic during the time of Jesus and the apostles was very different than today. Today, magic is a form of entertainment. At the time of Jesus, magic was thought to heal diseases, bring physical blessings, curse or harm others, or guard against curses. A good magician could be popular and even powerful in their town.

Today's story takes place right after the birth of the church. Hundreds of people were accepting Jesus as Lord each day, but there were many who hated the church. A deacon named Stephen was killed for proclaiming Jesus as the Christ. This single event led to a widespread persecution of Christians in Jerusalem. As a result, many Christians fled Jerusalem to nearby and distant cities taking the gospel with them. One of those cities was Samaria. However, the apostles remained in Jerusalem.

Philip, who served as a deacon alongside Stephen, was one of those who fled Jerusalem. He was also an evangelist. When he arrived in Samaria, he preached the gospel and performed many miracles. One of the witnesses to what God was doing through Philip was a powerful, well-known magician named Simon. Simon believed in Jesus and was baptized. As he continued to follow Philip, he was amazed at the signs and miracles being performed.

The apostles in Jerusalem also heard of the spread of the gospel in Samaria. As a result, they decided Peter and John should visit Samaria to see if what they were told was true. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 8:14-24 (12 Minutes): Change the storyteller often.

Rebuild the story: Retell the story as well as possible.

Read Acts 8:14-24: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: Learn to talk about God's word with others. **(Take as much time as needed.)**

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story tell you about people or yourself?
- What does this story teach you about God?
- What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about? How do you need to apply this story to your life?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.