 **Community Group Discussion Guide**

Go Therefore: Acts 8:5 – 40, April 18th, 2021

**I. Starter Questions:**

* How is God using you to share the Gospel? What obstacles do you face, and how have you seen God meet you in those challenges?
* What do you rely on the Holy Spirit to do in your life?

**II. Discussion of Scripture**

1. **Acts 8:5-25  
   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, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. **8**So there was much joy in that city.

### Simon the Magician Believes 9But 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. 10They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” 11And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. 12But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%208%3A5-25&version=ESV#fen-ESV-27178b)] 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 and John,**15**who came down and 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 and 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, and 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[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%208%3A5-25&version=ESV#fen-ESV-27188c)] 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 and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

**Brief Explanation:**In these verses, Luke shows us how the Holy Spirit *displays* His power and *gives* His power. We see through Philip’s witness in Samaria that the Holy Spirit moves mightily through ordinary Christians, not just the apostles. We also see in the story of Simon that the Spirit refuses to bestow His power to those who do not come to Jesus with sincerity. The Holy Spirit is not a source of power that anyone can use for his own purposes. He is a holy person of the Trinity, given as a supernatural gift only to those who are in Christ, to build the Church and preach the Gospel of salvation.

**Discussion Questions**:

1. What were the Christians doing who had been scattered throughout Judea and Samaria?
2. Why was the scattering of Christians a step forward for the church?
3. What did Philip do in Samaria?
4. What did the crowds do in response to Philip’s teaching and miracles?
5. How did Philip’s work draw attention to his message?
6. Why did the people rejoice?
7. How did the Samaritans react to Simon’s sorcery?
8. Why did Peter and John leave Jerusalem and go to Samaria?
9. What did Simon want to buy from Peter and John?
10. Why did Peter use strong language with Simon?
11. **Acts 8:26-40  
    26**Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+8%3A26-40&version=ESV#fen-ESV-27191a)] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. **27**And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28**and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29**And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” **30**So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” **31**And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.**32**Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
    and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
    so he opens not his mouth.  
**33**In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
    Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

**34**And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” **35**Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. **36**And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+8%3A26-40&version=ESV#fen-ESV-27201b)] **38**And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. **39**And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **40**But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Discussion Questions**:

1. What did the angel tell Philip to do?
2. Why was the eunuch on his way to Jerusalem to worship?
3. What was the eunuch doing while he sat in the chariot?
4. What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do?
5. What did Philip ask the eunuch?
6. How did Philip present the good news about Jesus?
7. What did the eunuch do after he believed in Jesus?
8. How did believing in Christ affect the eunuch?
9. What was the eunuch’s attitude as he went on his way?

**III. Responding in Prayer:**

* Pray specifically for the lost that God has put within your circle of influence.
* Pray that God would continue to teach us how to live by the power of the Holy Spirit.