

Acts 8 | Outsiders Become Insiders

Getting Going

1. Settling in & Opening Prayer
2. Can you remember a time you felt like an outsider? Were you able to become an insider?

Review

1. What did it look like for you to rely upon the Spirit this past week?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Acts 8:1-4. What catches your attention? What do you think this time would have been like to live through? How do you think you would have handled/responded in a time like this?
2. The Spirit enables us to do the work he has for us. Read through Acts 8:5-40 and take note of every time the Spirit empowered or led Philip and the Apostles to do what he was asking of them. How does this impact the way you view the Spirit's empowering for doing his will?
3. Acts 8:9-25 focuses on Simon the Sorcerer. He thought he could buy the Spirit's power, but was severely rebuked for this. What does this short section reveal to us about the purpose of the Spirit's power? How do we desire God's power to be used for our own benefit rather than for doing his will?
4. Acts 8 highlights two groups of "outsiders" (Samaritans, Eunuchs) that would not have been welcomed into Jewish worship. What does their baptism and the Spirit indwelling them reveal to us about God's plan for the world?

Practical Preparation:

1. What is something you feel God is asking you to do but you don't feel prepared or able to do it? How might reliance upon the Spirit's power help you to understand the situation differently?
2. Are there people we wouldn't want in our church? Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. We too were at one point those that weren't welcome, but God transformed us. How might we understand what Jesus has done for us to help us reach out to those that we struggle to want to include in the body of Christ?

Parting Prayer

1. Pray that your heart would be willing to be used by the Spirit for his plans. Trust that he will equip you and reveal where he wants us to serve.

Optional Extra Question - If you ran for president, what would be your campaign slogan?