



## Simon the Sorcerer

### Getting to know each other:

As the summer is beginning, what is one thing that you're looking forward to? Share with the group.

### Read Acts 8:9-25

1. What is significant about Philip sharing the gospel with the Samaritans and the Samaritans believing the gospel and being baptized?

2. In his discussion about why the Holy Spirit comes later for the Samaritans, Pastor David made the point that Biblical narrative isn't necessarily prescriptive but descriptive - not telling us exactly what should be, but instead offering examples to us of what was.

Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Does this help you in your reading of the Bible in any way?

Are there exceptions to this approach of interpreting narrative texts in scripture?

3. Thinking about the bigger picture of Acts, what events brought about Philip's going to Samaria? Without these things happening, do you think Philip would have ever gone to Samaria? What lesson is there for us in our lives based on how things worked out in Acts 7-8?

4. Learn something new: look up the word 'simony' on Google.

5. Verse 9 says that Simon 'practiced sorcery' and amazed people for a long time in Samaria.

How would a person who reads tarot cards today be similar or dissimilar to Simon?

What other people in our culture today might have similarities to Simon and how?

Do you think Simon had any real power with his sorcery?

6. Pastor David suggested that even though we might not seek out a sorcerer today, we all try to gain control through something. Is there a place in your life where you're trying to gain control when you need to surrender to God? How can you give that up and lean better into God?

## Next Steps 2023

- What are some of your next steps in faith for 2023? Share any updates with your group.
- When you complete your next step using the campus QR code below.

## Prayer

- Share praises and prayer requests with one another.
- Guided prayer: God, give me wisdom to see the places where I grab onto things of this world for control of my life, instead of you. Help me trust that you are good, that you fully and completely love me, and that your way is better, whatever it is. In Jesus' name, Amen.

