

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week January 5, 2014

This Week's Focus: Due to persecution, Philip goes to Samaria preaching the Gospel and many Samaritans believe.

This Week's Text: Acts 8:5-13

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies **John 8:44**

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **John 17:17**

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **John 8:31-32**

The major strategy of Satan is to distort the character of God and the truth of who we are. He can't change God and he can't do anything to change our identity and position in Christ. If, however, he can get us to believe a lie, we will live as though our identity in Christ isn't true. **Neil T. Anderson**

Related Texts: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Philippians 3:7-9, 4:8; Matthew 24:22-24; Colossians 1:13-14, 2:15; 1 John 3:8; 1 Peter 3:18, 5:9; James 4:7-8

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- Who is Philip? What do we know about him? What do we know about the Samaritans?
- What was so remarkable about Philip's act of going to Samaria?
 - What would be an equivalent for us today, to do his type of ministry?

- What was the message Philip brought to them?
 - What were the features in his effective ministry?
- What are the purposes of signs, wonders and miracles?
- How does Samaria respond to Philip's preaching? Why do they respond this way?
- Who are our "Samaritans", people with whom we have shied away from but God wants us to reach?
 - Who are you serving and loving in the gospel? Who are you avoiding?
- What do you make of Simon? How is he portrayed? What are we told about him? Reference verses 9-11.
 - Where did Simon's magic and power come from?
 - Do you think Simon truly believed in the Gospel?
- Compare verse 6 with 10 and 11. What similarities do you see? What do these imply?
 - What differences do you see in the two descriptions? What's different about each ones' exercise of power?
- What does verse 13 suggest is happening with Simon's faith?
 - Why did Philip baptize Simon?
 - How did Simon reveal his true intentions?
- According to 1 Peter 3:18 what is the ultimate aspect of our Salvation?
- What aspect of being a missionary in your culture is the most difficult? Declaring the gospel, demonstrating the gospel or understanding how to connect the gospel with others?
 - How can we (you) do a better job?

Gospel Celebration:

- The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- Jesus in the gospel disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame by triumphing over them in Him.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for opportunities to witness to others concerning the person and work of Jesus in word and deed.

Next Week's Text: Acts 8:14-25