

TAKEAWAY

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

Part Fifteen: Acts 8:9-25



At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!

SHARE

- If you could guarantee one thing in the future, what would it be?
- What is the difference between being a fan or a follower on something or someone?

INTRODUCTION

The book of Acts shares the account of the early church as they take the gospel, which is *for everyone everywhere, to everyone everywhere*.

Acts chapter eight, continues with Philip preaching in Samaria (an unlikely mission field as the Jews hated the Samaritans and viewed them as religious outsiders). Philip meets Simon, a sorcerer who fails to see the Holy Spirit as the gift from God it is, and instead seeks its power over a relationship with Jesus.

READ

Acts 8:9-25

DISCUSS

What is the difference between being amazed by Jesus and actually becoming a follower of Him?

Simon had built an identity around being "someone great." What happens to us when our identity becomes tied too closely to being impressive, successful, knowledgeable or respected? How does it harm us, ultimately?

How does the Christian understanding of grace challenge the need to prove that we're important?

Are there forms of power that are socially acceptable or even praised but can still become unhealthy? Why do you think power can be so addictive?

What do people imagine power will give them that they don't currently have?

How might our desire for control reveal what we actually believe about God?

Jesus is presented as the Messiah, yet His path ultimately involves giving Himself away and dying. How does that challenge normal ideas about power?

Simon had already experienced lots of supernatural things through sorcery. Why might spiritual experiences alone not necessarily lead someone to God?

If God cannot be bought, impressed or manipulated, what does He actually want from us?

Which is harder: believing that you're worse than you think you are, or believing that God loves you more than you think you deserve?

What would happen to our sense of identity if we genuinely believed that we don't have to prove our worth to God?

TRY OUT

- Reflect on your week and your relationships. What opportunities to speak of Jesus are there? Who can you be praying for to know Jesus and what actions might you take to encourage conversations about faith?

PRAY

- Pray for anything that has come up in your discussion and for opportunities to speak of Jesus, and that we might be available to God's leading.