

Small Group Questions

Week of Sunday, February 11th, 2024

Launch

What's the next big adventure you have planned, or initiative at work, or challenge in your personal life or family?

READ Acts 7:57-8:14

Observe

- In 7:57, 8:1a, and 8:3 what is Saul's involvement in all that happens with Stephen and the beginning of the "severe persecution?"

Process

- What are the obvious parallels between Philip and Simon in verses 6-8 and 9-11, respectively?

Respond

- Luke begins verse 12 with "But..." How does verse 12 highlight the majesty of the Gospel? Discuss the events of the end of chapter 7 through 8 verse 3. How do verses 4 and 8 encourage you to trust in God's faithfulness amidst opposition?

READ Acts 8:13-17

Observe

- What did Simon do after believing and being baptized?

Process

- Why do you think Peter and John prayed for the receiving of the Holy Spirit, rather than Philip? What would have been important about their witness of these events as the gospel beach to spread?

Respond

- Share where have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in yourself or someone else in the last month, six months, year?

READ Acts 8:18-25

Observe

- According to verses 20 and 21, what were the two parts to Simon's sin?

Process

- In verses 22-24 Peter exhorts Simon to repent. In your opinion, does Simon repent here or not? (Note: scholars are divided over this question so don't be dogmatic).

Respond

- Note the unflappable commitment of the Apostles, on their way back to Jerusalem they continue preaching in Samaritan villages. What can we learn from this? How does conflict or drama in our lives often distract us from the mission of sharing the Gospel with others? How can we, like the Apostles here, remain single-minded?