

ACTS

The Power of God

Warm-Up Questions:

- What does "magic" mean in the Bible? What is magic used for?

READ: Acts 8:4-25

I. The Power of God: The Source (Acts 8:4-8, 12)

- Read Romans 1:16. What is the "power of God"?
- Look at v. 12. What is the gospel or "good news"?
 - Does this definition differ from how you normally think about the gospel? How?

II. The Power of God: The Result (Acts 14-17, 25)

- Why do the Samaritans not receive the Holy Spirit when they believe and are baptized?
- Why is it so special that John is there to pray that the Samaritans receive the Spirit (cf. Luke (9:51-56)?
 - Can you think of an example from your own life of how the gospel has transformed your heart towards someone?
- Read Ephesians 2:11-22, especially v. 14. Where might we be putting up a wall of hostility between us and other believers?

III. The Power of God: The Warning (Acts 8:18-24)

- "Simony" is the practice of trying to buy spiritual power or commodify spiritual things. What might be some modern examples?
- Do you profess faith or do you possess it?
- When did you first get grace? What has that experience like?

Go Deeper

- Read Far As the Curse is Found pp. 241-247. Retell the story of Scripture using the language of the Kingdom of God.
- Read Acts 1:8, 2:41: 8:14, and 11:1. What connections do you see between these passages?

Take Action

- The gospel is not merely good advice but good news! Think of one person in your life who you can share the good news with this week.
- Spend some time praying that God would transform your heart towards a believer(s) you find hard to love.