

“The Spreading and Clarification of the Gospel”

Acts 8:4-24

Community Building Talking Point

It's a new Year! What hopes and dreams do you have for the new year? Do you have any resolutions or new rhythms you hope to build into your life that help you grow closer to God and his people?

Questions for Discussion

1. Pastor Kendall used the example of the game “telephone” to show how the further a message spreads, the more it can get confused. Can you think of any examples of how an original vision or message could get misunderstood as it gets passed on?
2. Because Saul is persecuting the church in Jerusalem, the believers scatter with the gospel message and wherever they go they preach the word. Believers respond to hard times by engaging new people with the Word. What gave the believers the strength to keep spreading the message despite the danger they faced?
3. Who or what makes us scared to engage others today? What can we learn from Philip's example?
4. As the believers move into Samaria, we remember the tense history the “pure Jews” had with the Samaritan “half-Jews” with their mixed up theology and practices. This shows us that the Word of God draws surprising people to faith in Jesus. When have you been surprised by someone's response to the gospel?
5. When we read about Simon the Sorcerer, what was his sin and why did Peter confront him the way he did?
6. The gospel confronts and frees us from sinful patterns. When has the gospel confronted you with the truth of God? How has the gospel freed you?
7. What is one step you'd like to take today to walk as a faithful witness of Jesus?

Pray with each other, sharing each other's concerns with God, but also praying for the Spirit to open up the doors for our witness to Jesus.