

THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

Acts 8:9-25

April 14, 2024

SIMON THE MAGICIAN: FALSE CONVERSION

1

The passage introducing Simon the magician begins with the word “but”—what contrast or complication is being set up with the previous passage?

2

Have you seen examples of growth in the church complicated by individuals, alternative agendas, or misunderstandings? Why might God allow these complications in the life of the church?

3

The word “amazed” (Gk. *existēmi*) is used multiple times in this passage (v. 9, 11, 13). What does it mean in each of these contexts? Who is amazed and by what?

4

Does amazement indicate true belief? Does the ability to do amazing things indicate true power? How can Christians use discernment in this area?

5

What is the evidence that Simon’s was not a true conversion? What did he believe about the Holy Spirit?

6

Have we ever been guilty of wanting God's gifts rather than God himself? What does that look like and how can we guard against it?

7

What does Simon's final prayer request reveal about his heart and motivations? Is it likely that he will repent?

8

Is Peter's response to Simon harsh or compassionate? Does it suggest a model for Christians to adopt in some circumstances?

