

# 2024 - Family Devo

## Apr 14 - a



### READ: Acts 8:9-25

**Main Idea:** This town already had someone claiming to have power from God, Simon the Magician. He had everyone fooled, until the people saw true miracles. When the apostles heard that these people had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John. Then we see miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit being imparted to these new Christians by the laying on of hands of these two apostles. Simon noticed this too, and wanted to buy from them, not the miraculous gifts, but the ability that the apostles had, to pass them on.

### DISCUSS

**Children:** People had probably heard all about the miracles of Jesus and his disciples so of course they are going to believe Simon when he does his magic tricks and says he got his magic from God. When Simon and the other people see the real miracles from Peter and John, they should have figured out Simon was a fraud.

**Teen:** Can you hide your heart or your motives from God? Are there things today people might ask for saying it's for God or the Kingdom, but in reality it is for more selfish reasons?

**Adult:** Fakes versus the real thing. What do you think Simon thought when he saw Philip do true signs and miracles? Why do you think he followed Philip everywhere? Was he trying to see how the signs were done? Was he looking for the fakery? Simon then wanted to be able to lay hands on believers for them to receive the Holy Spirit. Do you think this was so that he could regain some of his previous prestige or was it some other motivation? Peter corrects him for having a hard heart and being full of bitterness. How can we keep our hearts from becoming bitter over hurts, or slights or outright wrongs done to us?

### PRAY

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### MEMORIZE

**Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)**  
**But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**



# 2024 - Family Devo

## Apr 14 - b



### READ: Acts 8:26-31

**Main Idea:** Philip is told by an angel to go down a certain road. The Spirit then tells him to go to a chariot passing by. He meets an Ethiopian who is reading from Isaiah. After asking him if he understands what he is reading, the Ethiopian replies, "how can I, unless someone guides me?"

### DISCUSS

**Children:** This story is about someone sharing the Bible with someone else. Was that an important thing to do? What if Philip wasn't there when he was needed? It's very important that we share our faith with others. Sometimes, we see the need right in front of us like God helped Philip to see. We also have to be ready and willing, like Philip, to help people learn more about God, when we have the chance.

**Teen:** Will God lead us to the places He needs us? Do you have a willingness to share Jesus with others when you are given an opportunity to do so? If not, what hinders your willingness?

**Adult:** Most likely this Ethiopian was a proselyte to Judaism. He had traveled somewhere around 1500 miles one-way (given our current roads). With the return, the whole trip likely took 5 months. We're not told how long he had been in Jerusalem, but we know he went for the purpose of worship. Would we call this dedication? Obsession? Insanity? He was a man of high class as he traveled by chariot. Further, he was sitting in the chariot, a passenger. While he rode, he read the scriptures – out loud, because Philip heard him reading. Philip took the opportunity to study with him. How often do we have opportunities that we don't realize until later? Or we realize in the moment, but let the chance go? What makes us less likely than Simon to spread the gospel to strangers?

### PRAY

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### MEMORIZE

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