



ACTS CHAPTERS 8-9 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- Can you think of a situation that had a surprising outcome/result that you never expected? Why did you expect something different?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Acts 8:1-40 & Acts 9:1-43)

Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Acts 8:1-8

- Do you think that people's circumstances frequently dictate their attitudes and mindsets? Why?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Notice what was being done to the church and how it was it being done. In light of this, why is what is being said about the church in verse 4 significant?
 - The people who were scattered could have very easily felt sorry for themselves and retreated seeking to protect their own interests and their own lives. Yet, they did the exact opposite. Their circumstances didn't control their attitudes or mindsets. They continued to live with passion and urgency, seeking to preach Jesus Christ.



Acts 8:9-25

- Why was Peter's response to Simon the Sorcerer so direct and sharp in Acts 8:20-23?
 - Simon the Sorcerer's past included having the limelight with people being focused on him rather than God. It wasn't just that Simon was asking for power to lay his hands on people so that they could receive the Holy Spirit. It was that his focus was strictly on himself and drawing people to him. It was in no way about drawing people deeply into the presence of God.
 - How do you sometimes lose focus on who God has made you to be and revert back to life being all about you?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - How do you think that we can remind ourselves and each other that this life is about making much of Jesus rather than making much of ourselves?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

Acts 8:26-40

- How do you intentionally put yourself in positions to listen to the Spirit's leading when it comes to sharing God's word, your faith, and your testimony with others?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why do you think verses 34 & 35 are significant?
 - One of the reasons that these verses are significant is because they let us know that Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch exactly where he was at and taught him as he was able to hear. As a community of faith, we are called to meet people where they are at, but we are also called to teach as people are



able to hear and understand. This doesn't mean watering down the Gospel, but it does mean not seeing people as problems to be solved and/or issues to be fixed.

- Another reason that these verses are significant is because Philip taught him the good news about Jesus from the Scriptures. It wasn't just Philip's opinions or experiences. It was Philip drawing the eunuch to Jesus from what God's word had to say.

Acts 9:1-19

- How would you have felt and what would you have thought if you were in Ananias' position and God told you to go and spend time with an individual who was infamous when it came to destroying Christians and trying to destroy the church?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Are there people who you believe (not necessarily with your words but by your actions) are too far gone to be a Christian and/or who you believe just wouldn't be interested in Jesus? What is the challenge in this text about that type of mindset and attitude?
 - The first question is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator. The challenge in this text about believing someone is too far gone and/or believing that someone just isn't interested in Jesus is to simply get our mindsets and attitudes aligned with the heart of Jesus. The reality is that no one is too far gone. Regarding a person's interest level in Jesus, we will never have any idea if we do not open our mouths and share and love. A person may not be interested in Jesus. They may not be searching for God BUT they are searching for something, even when they choose not to acknowledge it and what a wonderful gift we have to share!!!
- How can you be more like Ananias, who did what God commanded him to do although he probably didn't understand nor did he like what God commanded?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

Acts 9:20-43



- Reread Acts 9:23-26 and consider what following Jesus cost Saul/Paul in this text. Consider that his old friends and associates were now trying to kill him, and his new family wanted nothing to do with him because they were afraid.
 - Do you agree or disagree with the following quote? “Following Jesus will always have costs involved.”
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - What things has following Jesus cost you? Is following Him still worth it to you? Why?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- In Acts 9:32-43, we see two miraculous things happen, one with Aeneas and one with Tabitha. The chains of physical bondage were broken, and the chains of death were broken.
 - What do you think it means and looks like for you to believe, live, and act like Jesus can still break the chains in your own personal life today?
 - This an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - What do you think it means and looks like for the church to believe, live, and act like Jesus can still break the chains both inside and outside of the church that exist today?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?



- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week
 - (Acts Chapters 10 & 11)



ACTS CHAPTERS 8-9 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

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Opening Prayer

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- How do you think that we can remind ourselves and each other that this life is about making much of Jesus rather than making much of ourselves?

Acts 8:26-40

- How do you intentionally put yourself in positions to listen to the Spirit's leading when it comes to sharing God's word, your faith, and your testimony with others?
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Acts 9:1-19

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Acts 9:20-43

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 - Do you agree or disagree with the following quote? "Following Jesus will always have costs involved."
 - What things has following Jesus cost you? Is following Him still worth it to you? Why?



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 - What do you think it means and looks like for the church to believe, live, and act like Jesus can still break the chains both inside and outside of the church that exist today?

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

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