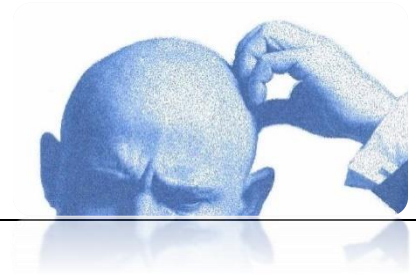


Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

*This short preaching series is called **Breath: Reflections on the Holy Spirit**. Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories **BEFORE** you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.*

- Read **Acts 8:4-25**. What is this story about?
- How did Philip end up in Samaria? What does that suggest about persecution? What does it tell you about God?
- In what way is sorcery (something that “amazed all the people”, v. 9) still practiced today?
- Was Simon’s conversion sincere? How do you know?
- Should we ever evaluate a person’s conversion? Why? If so, how?
- In this story, the coming of the Holy Spirit is a separate event from believing and being baptized (vs. 14-17). Is this intended to be normative? If not, why does the Spirit “delay” his coming here?
- What was Simon looking for? What was the underlying issue?
- Are there ways in which we “use” God for our own purposes? Give an example.
- How have you experienced the Spirit?
- How would you like to experience the Spirit?
- This story remains open ended. What do you think happened to Simon?