

Transition:

Much like the ministry of Jesus, Paul's missionary journeys were filled with preaching, interacting with crowds and all types of miracles. Whereas many of the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes reviled Jesus because of their jealousy, Paul and the other apostles had onlookers like Simon in Acts 8 who wanted to be able to do what the apostles were doing. However, they were not true believers and God did not honor their efforts to duplicate the acts of the Spirit through the apostles.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. How were people healed just by touching handkerchiefs or aprons?
2. What lesson, do you suppose, the Sons of Sceva should have learned from their experience? (Acts 8:22)
3. Why do you think fear fell upon them all? Why would they burn their belongings?

Fundamental:

Confession & Repentance – Confession means to agree with the truth. Though God already knows what we have done, we are commanded to confess our sins to be “cleansed from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9; James 5:16).” Confession is the beginning of the healing process. Repentance means to change one's mind – to turn away 180 degrees from your sin (Matt 3:2). To kill the old man (Rom 8:13). As a Christian, friendship with the world is no longer an option (James 4:4), we must become a new creation (2 Cor 5:17) and pursue a life of holiness (Heb 12:14).

1. Who should we confess our sins to? Does everyone need to know our dirty laundry?
2. Can a person be saved without repentance?
3. Does a Christian still sin? Is it okay to continue to live in sin? (Rom 6:1; 1 John 3:6)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Confession of our sins to God and a genuine repentance of our sins are both a crucial part of the Christian walk. Make both a regular part of your abiding time with Jesus.
2. Please read Acts 20-28 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Many young believers will wonder, “If God already knows what I've done, why do I need to confess?” New believers will also be continually tempted to continue to live in the world. Teach them to make confession a regular part of their prayer life. Teach them that turning completely away from sin is necessary to a genuine relationship with Christ.

Prayer:

Pray that your people will understand what type of life Christ has called us to – that continuing to live in sin simply breaks God's heart. May we be convinced that a holy life is the best, most fulfilling, even the most pleasurable life.