

Church at Home Pack – 21st February 2021
Join us online for our 10:30am service on Sunday
<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

The power is yours:

to shape and to teach, to mend and to raise, to love and to forgive.

Come, Spirit of power.

The truth is yours:

to live out in life, to lead the humble, to proclaim to all.

Come, Spirit of truth.

The authority is yours:

to challenge the unjust, to bring down the arrogant, to judge the world.

Come, Spirit of authority.

Action reminder –

From the top of my head

(Touch head)

to the tips of my toes;

(Touch toes)

from the lobes of my ears

(Touch ear lobes)

to the end of my nose;

(Touch nose)

from my back, to my front

(Turn round)

to my wiggly fingers,

(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)

God loves me!

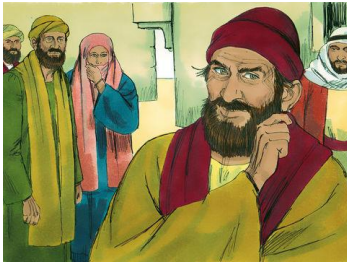
(jump up and down)

READ TOGETHER

Acts 8: 9-25



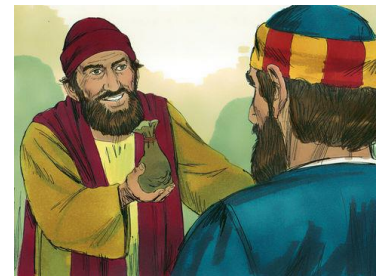
International Children's Bible (ICB)



⁹ But there was a man named Simon in that city. Before Philip came there, Simon had practiced magic. He amazed all the people of Samaria with his magic. He bragged and called himself a great man. ¹⁰ All the people—the least important and the most important—paid attention to what Simon said. They said, “This man has the power of God, called ‘the Great Power’!” ¹¹ Simon had amazed them with his magic tricks so long that the people became his followers. ¹² But Philip told them the Good News about the kingdom of God and the power of Jesus Christ. Men and women believed Philip and were baptised. ¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptised. He stayed very close to Philip. When he saw the miracles and the very powerful things that Philip did, Simon was amazed.

¹⁴ The apostles were still in Jerusalem. They heard that the people of Samaria had accepted the word of God. So they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ When Peter and John arrived, they prayed that the Samaritan believers might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ These people had been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. But the Holy Spirit had not yet entered any of them. ¹⁷ Then, when the two apostles began laying their hands on the people, they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ Simon saw that the Spirit was given to people when the apostles laid their hands on them. So he offered the apostles money. ¹⁹ He said, “Give me also this power so that when I lay my hands on a person, he will receive the Holy Spirit.” ²⁰ Peter said to him, “You and your money should both be destroyed! You thought you could buy God’s gift with money. ²¹ You cannot share with us in this work. Your heart is not right before God. ²² Change your heart! Turn away from this evil thing you have done. Pray to the Lord. Maybe he will forgive you for thinking this. ²³ I see that you are full of bitter jealousy and ruled by sin.” ²⁴ Simon answered, “Both of you pray for me to the Lord. Pray that the things you have said will not happen to me!”



²⁵ Then the two apostles told the people the things they had seen Jesus do. And after the apostles had given the message of the Lord, they went back to Jerusalem. On the way, they went through many Samaritan towns and preached the Good News to the people.

New International Version (NIV)

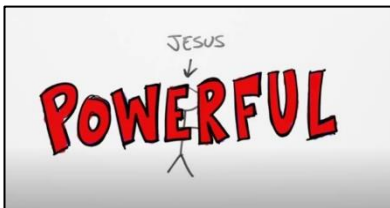
⁹ Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, ¹⁰ and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.” ¹¹ They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women. ¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptised. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply

been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money ¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." ²⁴ Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me." ²⁵ After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

WATCH TOGETHER



Philip was able to do amazing things through the power of Jesus living in him by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is super powerful – Crossroads Kids' Club:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6uVWEma1hg>



This video gives you an introduction to the beginning of Acts and then tells you about the events which happen in chs.8-12.

Acts 8-12 – Bible Project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiVAbkINtRU>

TALK TOGETHER

- Magicians can be very entertaining to watch and we can enjoy magic in books or films, but what do we think about real people who say they are witches or wizards?
- What about things like horoscopes? Is it just harmless fun or is there anything we need to be careful of?

STUDY TOGETHER

Read Acts 8:9-25

- What was the difference between Simon's message and Philip's message? (*see v.9 and v.12*)
- Simon's belief in Philip's message seems genuine but what is he most attracted by? (*v.13*)
- What has he misunderstood about God's character and the gospel of Jesus?
- What does Peter say is Simon's problem? (*v.20-21*)

- Simon obviously enjoyed the attention he received and wanted to be able to ‘control’ the Holy Spirit for his own use. Are there ways in which we could be tempted to use our Christian faith to get power or attention for ourselves?



TRICKY QUESTIONS

If you have time and you’re interested, you might like to look at v.14-17 and think about why the Samaritan believers didn’t receive the Holy Spirit when they first believed.

When you’ve thought about it, here are some questions which might help

- What does the Bible suggest is the usual situation? (See Acts 2:38-39; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13)
- Think about Jesus’ instruction to the apostles in Acts 1:8 and how some Jews felt about Samaritans and Gentiles. Can you think of any reason why it might have been important for Peter and John to see for themselves that the Spirit had come on the new believers? (See Acts 10:44-48 as well)

MAKE TOGETHER

‘What’s in my heart?’ pictures

We hold the things that are most important to us in our hearts. They affect the way we live. If we are followers of Jesus then what is in our heart should show that. Here’s a fun way to explore this!



Take some kitchen roll and cut it in two. Fold the strips in half so you have two smaller squares from one sheet. On the front draw a heart shape with a felt pen. Open up the kitchen roll square and on the inside draw ‘What’s in your heart?’



You’ll need a tray with a small amount of water in the bottom for the next bit.

Once you’ve drawn your picture and folded it back over, drop it into the water. The picture inside will appear in your heart!



'Gift of the Holy Spirit' Bags

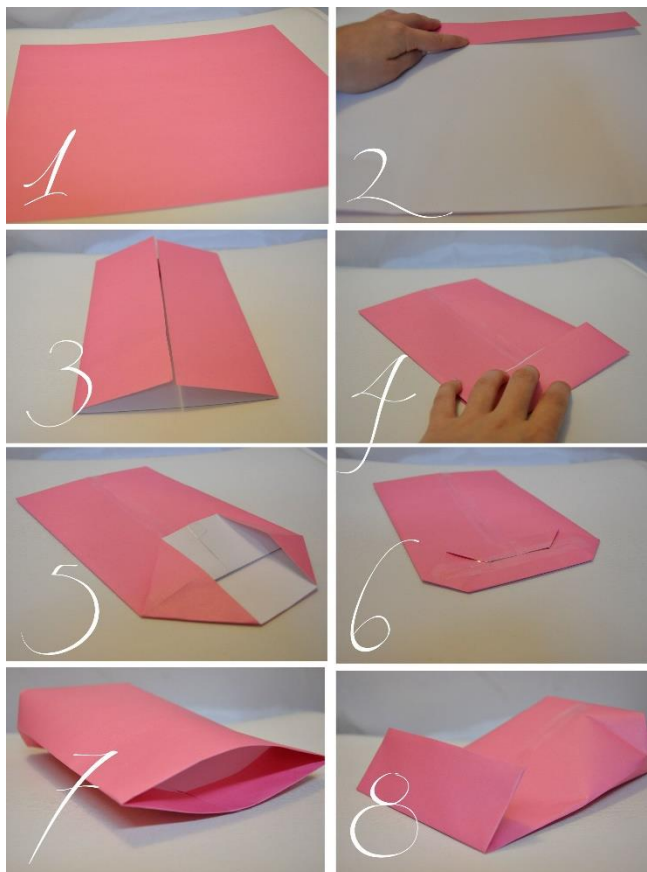
We should all want/desire the gifts of the Spirit but for God's glory, not our own. But... it IS a gift, not something that can be bought.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 speaks about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Read it in your Bible and write out the gifts on pieces of paper and then make a gift bag (instructions below). Put the gifts inside and use it as a prayer to ask God to bless you with a gift for his glory!

You will need:

- Paper (rectangle) – you can use plain paper or wrapping paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Glue stick/Sticky tape
- Hole Punch
- String/Ribbon

To make the bag fold and stick the paper as shown in the pictures. Open it up and put the 'gifts' inside. Make a hole in the top with a hole punch and tie with ribbon or string.



Decorate it however you like and add the words – ‘Gift of the Holy Spirit’
Here are some ideas:



PLAY TOGETHER

Pass it on

The people in Samaria heard the good news about Jesus because Philip went there to pass it on.



Sit or stand in a circle and choose who is going to start and which way round the circle the message will pass. The first person thinks of some good news about Jesus and whispers it to the next person. They whisper it to the next person and so on. When it gets to the last person in the circle, they should say what they think the good news is.

Choose a different person to start and play again. You can keep playing until you run out of good news to share!

Now you've thought of lots of good news about Jesus, who else could you share it with?

SING TOGETHER

The Power Shuffle – Lifetree Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNEAtmq6oTE>

The Power of Your Love – Hillsong: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9_0jiO5ZRM

Open Heaven (River Wild) – Hillsong: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiK9S8iq4ek>

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God – Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDYjn-YdnD4>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Do we ever treat God like a genie who we expect to grant all our wishes?
Why are we Christians? Is it for what we can get out of it?
Is our heart right before God?



Answer these questions honestly before God as you listen to 'The Heart of God' (Hillsong Young & Free)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQClAaekyE>

Find hope in his forgiving, loving heart.

Lord Your kindness leads us to repentance to the heart of God

PRAY TOGETHER

If you want to, whenever you say "Teach us, good Lord, where true power lies", make a cross shape with your arms to remind you that Jesus' power is greater than any other.

Loving God, we are surrounded by many powerful voices.

Teach us, good Lord, where true power lies.

We hear the powerful voices of people who want us to go along with them without thinking.

Teach us, good Lord, where true power lies.

We hear the powerful voices of greed which want us to get more and more for ourselves rather than loving others and sharing what we have.

Teach us, good Lord, where true power lies.

We hear the powerful voices of selfishness which want us to think of ourselves rather than others.

Teach us, good Lord, where true power lies.

But we also see the powerful cross of Jesus – where true power and wisdom lie.

Teach us, good Lord, where true power lies.

Amen.

Go in the power of the Spirit,
that your fear may be clothed with courage,
your past mistakes become new opportunities
and your life reflect the faithfulness of God
who forgives, loves and cherishes you.

Amen.

DO TOGETHER

In our service this week we sang these words:

“Lord, you have my heart and I will search for yours”



As you read your Bible this week ask “What does this tell me about the heart of God (Father, Son or Holy Spirit)?”

- What/who does he love?
- What/who is he interested in?
- What/who is he concerned about?
- What does he feel?

Think to yourself or talk with your family/friends about how you can put your heart in line with God’s.
What can you do **this week** to show that you’re concerned about the things he is concerned about?
What can you do **this week** to show that you are interested in the things he is interested in?

family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Prayers and Action Reminder taken or adapted from

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