

Small Group Study Guide- After the Potluck 8 (Acts 8:1-25)

1. True salvation produces joy. (Acts 8:1-8)

- Describe how Stephen's martyrdom was the opening of persecution? How did God use such persecution to advance the gospel? Interesting how Stephen's death opened the door for a lot of life, discuss.
- How is Luke's usage of a "great lament" a sign that a mission field still existed in Jerusalem?
- How was the proclamation of Philip both attractive and effective?
- What does this passage teach us about spiritual warfare?
- Luke says there was "much joy in the city." Why was there such joy? How does salvation produce joy? (Galatians 5:22-24)

2. False salvation produces sorrow. (Acts 8:9-25)

- Luke starts verse 9 with "but." What does this tell us about the story that is to come and who is the character?
- What is the spiritual assessment of Simon?
- *Discuss the 4 signs of false faith as learned from Simon:*
 1. A wrong view of self. (Acts 8:9-11):
 - Discuss the specific things people said about him and things he said about himself. (Proverbs 16:18)
 2. A wrong view of salvation. (Acts 8:12-13):
 - Discuss why Simon made a commitment. What would be the wrong reasons and how can those be repeated today?
 3. A wrong view of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14-21):
 - How can we see the Holy Spirit move today? What are negative ways we see people view the role of the Holy Spirit? (Compare with Simon.)
 4. A wrong view of sin. (Acts 8:22-25):
 - Why did Peter tell Simon to repent? Did Simon truly repent, why or why not?
 - Discuss the difference between transactional and transformational Christianity!