**Icebreaker:**
Have you ever been to a magic show or seen one on TV? What was your favorite trick?

**Read and discuss:**

1. In our Acts 6 study last week for home groups, you were asked to cook a meal or do housework for someone to ease their burdens. Were you able to do that? How was it?

2. The early Christians suffered persecution. Some were even dragged off and put in prison. Most of us have not been persecuted in this way; but have you ever felt persecuted, made fun of, or looked down on because of your faith?

3. In the eyes of the Jews, the Samaritans were 'outcasts,' 'impure' and 'enemies.' Who are the Samaritans in our lives? How does the teaching of Acts 8 guide the church's response to those who are outcasts among us today?

4. Is it possible to pursue God for the wrong reasons? What might be some of those reasons? From the text what might have been some of Simon's reasons?

5. Simon, the sorcerer, tried to buy the ability to lay hands on people and have them receive the Holy Spirit. Have you ever seen someone try to buy something that money can't buy? Or have you ever bargained with God; promising something to God if God will answer your prayer?

6. How does Acts 8 portray the variety of ways the Holy Spirit can influence people toward God? Can we create spaces and settings to enable the Spirit's work in the world?

**Prayer:**
As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

- Pray for healing for Cheri Fuchs and Ryan Carr.