

Spirit-Filled and Able to Confess and Be Forgiven

Parents: When our hearts aren't in the right place, God knows. In the Bible story today there's clear instruction on what needs to be done. Let's take a close look at this with our kids.

Read: *Acts 8: 9-25 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, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God." They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. 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. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me." 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.*

Discuss: What did Philip proclaim to the people of Samaria? *The good news of Jesus.*

What did Simon, the sorcerer, desire to do like Peter and John? *To give people the Holy Spirit by laying hands on them.*

Peter told Simon that he could not buy the gift of God with money and that Simon should feel bad about asking for the wrong reason. Peter told Simon he should pray to God. How can we apply this lesson to our life? *When we have thoughts or actions that go against God we can ask for forgiveness. Does God really forgive us? Yes! That is the good news of Jesus! He died on the cross to forgive us for all of our sins.*

Key Point:

We Praise You God	(Hands up in praise)
For Your Correction	(Hands out in front)

Family Activity: A forgiveness letter is included in our lesson today. Color the letter, fill in the blanks, and pray about it. Asking for forgiveness and forgiving others is a way we can show love our love and thankfulness for God who has completely forgiven us.

Prayer: Dear God, thanks for the gift of forgiveness. Give us courage to ask for it and joy to live for you free and forgiven by the power of the Holy Spirit. We thank You & we love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Psalm 139: 23-24 Search me, God, & know my heart; test me & know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, & lead me in the way everlasting.

My Forgiveness Letter



Dear _____,

I want to apologize for

I am truly sorry, please forgive me.

I am praying that

Next time I will

Love,

Forgiveness Makes Us Happy!

