

**Acts of the Holy Spirit - 10**  
**Simon the not so Great – Week of November 20, 2016**  
**Bay Park Life Groups – Participant**

In life we learn from both our victories and our failures. It's a lot more fun learning from our successes as opposed to our defeats. Yet the fact remains, we learn as much from what brings us pain as from what brings us joy. Simon Magus\* stands as a great spiritual reminder of what not to do or cherish in this life. The beauty of learning from the failures of others is that it's a lot less painful. The key to learning from Simon is to humbly take the warnings to heart.

1. One thing you're looking forward to in the coming week?

**Read Acts 8:9-25 together**

2. If you're a follower of Christ, did you come to believe in an instant or did it take place over time? Did you "convert" more than once?
3. Those who believed were also baptized, with little delay between the two events. What is the significance of baptism and what role has it played in your spiritual journey?
4. Learning from Simon.
  - Looking at verses 13, 18-23, do you think Simon really believed?
  - What was Simon's main problem?
  - Looking at verse 24, do you think Simon repented?
5. Read Matthew 20:25-28, John 13:12-15 and Philippians 2:3-8. What does greatness and authority look like in God's Kingdom? In what ways does this vision of greatness collide with the pervasive "powers" and attitudes in our culture?
6. Simon Magus stands as a three-fold warning to us:
  - You will rise or fall on who's the greatest of them all (you or Jesus, contentment or jealousy).
  - If you want a power and purpose that money can't buy, then money has to be powerless over you.
  - Not everyone who believes and is baptized is a disciple of Jesus.Personally, which warning grabs you the most and why? How has God's grace and victory been experienced in your life related to these warnings?
7. Though legends and traditions abound, we're not told how Simon's story ended. Why do you think God chose to leave us on a cliffhanger?