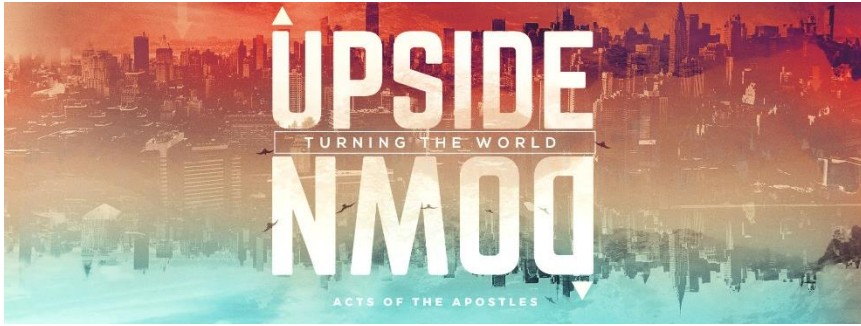




Joy in the City

Life Group Study, Week of May 8, 2022

Engage.

What brings you joy?

If you had the opportunity to hear the message on Sunday, what stood out to you personally? Did you have any questions?

Look at the Book. Read Acts 8:4-8, 12, 14-17, 25

Who was Philip? See Acts 6:1-6; 21:8-9.

What was particularly bold about Philip choosing to go down to Samaria and preach the gospel? See John 4:9; Acts 1:8.

Luke tells us that as a result of Philip's ministry, "there was great joy in that city." What was the cause of that joy?

- Philip's proclamation of the gospel
- exorcisms and healings
- both

Should Christians and churches make it a primary goal to be a source of joy to the communities they serve? Why or why not?

According to verse 12, what two things resulted in the lives of those who received Philip's message?

What news prompted the apostles to send Peter and John to Samaria?

- Samaria had received the word of God
- The Samaritan believers had not yet received the Spirit
- Both of the of the above
- Neither of the above

What two things did Peter and John do when they arrived?

What was so unusual about the fact that Samaritans had believed the gospel and been baptized, yet the Spirit "*had not yet fallen on any of them*"? See Acts 2:38-39; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13.

Why do you suppose God withheld the gift of the Holy Spirit from the Samaritans until the arrival of the representatives from Jerusalem?

Imagine that the thousand-year rift between the Samaritans and the Jews had been allowed to persist and take root within the church. What would have been some implications for the ongoing vitality and mission of the church?

Apply

What kinds of things war against reconciliation and unity among believers today?

What is at stake when we, the church, are characterized by disunity?

What steps can we take within our spheres of relationship to pursue oneness with other Christians?