

Tell the Next Generation



Story #108: God's gifts cannot be bought with money

Scripture:
Acts: 8:2-24

What does this say about God and man?

- The power of God is greater than any other power
- The Holy Spirit can give power to heal the lame and paralyzed, and to deliver from demons
v. 7
- The Holy Spirit, or any of God's gifts, cannot be purchased with money
- You cannot love money and trust God at the same time
- When you believe in Jesus, you should be baptized
v. 12
- God gives the Holy Spirit to believers
v. 17
- God acts in response to prayer
vv. 15, 24
- Man is sinful and needs forgiveness for his sin
v. 22

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Let's pretend you want a _____ (name a toy that your child especially likes). And I said you could get it. How would you get it? Would you go to the store and ask them to just give it to you? No, you have to pay money to buy a _____. And if Mom and Dad need a _____ (chair, food, table, car), do the people in the store just **give** it to us? No, we have to pay for it with money. Even if someone gives us a gift, that person had to buy the gift with money.

What about God's gifts? Can we pay for them with money? Simon wanted the authority the apostles had—to lay hands on people and they would receive the Holy Spirit. He wanted it so much, he offered them money to get it! Can money buy a gift from God?

- * If money can't buy God's gifts, is there another way to "buy" them (deserve them)? Maybe if we act really good and nice, we will deserve God's gifts? Maybe if you always obey Mom and Dad, and share your toys? Or if I never got mad and I went to church a lot? You know what? We can never pay for God's gifts! We can never deserve them; no matter how nice and good we behave, we are never good enough to deserve God's gifts. Jesus paid for the gifts we have from God by dying on the cross for our sins. We can pay nothing: only receive God's gifts with trust and thanks.