# The Leading of the Spirit 8. Inspiration to reject power games Acts 8:9-25

# God has a purpose for us all

## A plan for humanity in which each person can realise their potential for all eternity

### It starts before we are born and continues after we die

### A plan that we are invited to join

## It’s an all or nothing deal

# God does not do power games

## He doesn’t bargain with us to see which parts we want

### The Holy Spirit is given to Christians to guide us, to make us ready for eternity, to help us develop and achieve our God-given potential, to enable us, and to demonstrate what it’s like to have God with us and in us

## He doesn’t have another plan for those that don’t like it

# God is in charge of history

### Luke shows surprise that these Samaritans did not receive the Holy Spirit when they believed in Jesus

#### The church has used this incident to play power games ever since!

## God’s goal is that everyone be brought together in Christ

### By NOT giving them the Holy Spirit until the apostles came He affirmed the unity of the church in Christ

## God’s plan sought to mend a rift and bring people together in Christ

### It still does today and the invitation is for you and me to join in

## Humility is the answer

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# God has a purpose

## How does this sit with you?

### How does it make you feel/respond?

# Power games

## What are power games?

### How would you describe them?

## What good can come from power games at work? In clubs/committees? In the home? At church?

## What attitudes are promoted when power games are successful?

## Does humility imply that we should allow ourselves to be ‘walked over’ in power games?

## If the Holy Spirit is withheld from a believer does that mean they are not really a Christian?

### Explain your reasoning

#### What can they do about it?

#### What can other Christians do about it?

# The history

## Samaritan history came from the rejection of Rehoboam after Solomon’s death (1K12)

### Read 2 Kings 17:7-41 for a theological understanding over 300 years later

#### From this, discuss why it was important for Luke/Jesus to insist that the good news should be preached in Samaria (Acts 1:8)

##### What does it tell us about God’s character?

##### What does it tell us about God’s plans?

# The unity of the church

## In what ways is the unity of the church affirmed?

## In what ways is it denied?

### How can we walk the tightrope of affirming unity without accepting only the lowest common belief?

### Where can we find our true unity? Why is it important?