

Acts 5:1-16

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

At the end of Acts chapter 4 we see that the followers of Christ recognize that they are mere stewards of what they possess. Hence many of them sell their houses and land in order to give these resources to those in need. Ananias and Sapphira sell some property and claim to give all of the proceeds to the apostles. However in reality this couple secretly keeps some of the money for themselves. Because of their deceit and their desire to be approved by others, they are killed by God. In this passage we also see that the disciples' earlier prayer for miraculous signs has been answered and the sick and demon possessed are receiving healing.

This passage illustrates that God is not pleased with us when we lie and try to look good in front of others. Instead, we will be able to accomplish many good works if we trust in God.

PRAYER

Each person prays for someone and offers a thanks to God for something positive that happened recently.

BIBLE READING

[Acts 5:1-16](#)

DRAMATIZATION

Play NLT [Audio](#) of part of passage: Acts 5:1-11, (start- 0:00, end- 1:31)

1. Ananias sells some property and gives part of the money to the disciples, but lies saying that he gave all of the money.

2. Peter rebukes him. Ananias then dies and his body is carried away by some young men for burial.
3. Sapphira also claims they gave all of the money. She also dies and is buried.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Ananias and Sapphira do that displeased God?
2. Why do you think they did this?
3. Why do you think God empowered the Apostles to perform such miraculous signs in the early days of the Church?
4. What parts of this passage are most interesting to you?

POSSIBLE LESSONS

1. We should not do something helpful in order to look good in front of others.
2. God sees our motives; He cannot be deceived and He holds each person accountable for their actions.
3. It may be that God gave supernatural powers to the early believers in order to get Christianity fully started. Or it may be that this was simply an answer to the believer's prayer. Perhaps we would be better off praying for boldness in sharing the Gospel rather than for safety.

VISUALS

[“The Death of Ananias”](#) by Raphael (1515)

OBJECT

Create a shadow to represent the miraculous healing God worked through Peter.

DRAWING ACTIVITY

Draw a quick sketch of an item or a scene from this passage. Then show it to the group and explain what and why you drew this.

WORSHIP

Sing the song- [*If We're Honest*](#) by Francesca Battistelli

PRAYER

One person close with a prayer that connects with this lesson.