

Acts 4:32-5:11

July 6, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Two Truths and a Lie

Instructions:

1. Form Groups: Place students in small groups of four or five people.
2. Create Statements: Invite each person to come up with three statements about him-or herself. Two should be true, and one should be a lie.
3. Share and Guess: Take turns sharing your three statements with your group. The others will guess which statement is the lie.
4. Continue Playing: Keep playing until everyone in the group has had a turn.

Teaching Moment: Today, we played a game of "Two Truths and a Lie" to learn fun facts about each other. In our study in Acts today, we will read about a time when two people lied to the church and faced serious consequences.

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 4:32-5:11.

What does it mean for a church to be “of one heart and mind” (v.32)?

How would you describe the church’s actions in this passage?

What would this look like for us today? How should our church and group take care of those in need in our community?

What did Luke say Barnabas did at the end of Acts 4? Do you think this could have inspired Ananias and Sapphira’s actions? Why or why not?

Contrast Barnabas’s generosity with Ananias and Sapphira’s actions in Acts 5. What was the difference? Why were Ananias and Sapphira’s actions sinful?

What did Peter say was the root problem behind the couple’s sin?

GOING DEEPER

Why do you think telling the truth is important to God?

What would it look like for us to be radically generous today?

APPLICATION

How could we grow in taking care of needs in our church, community, and school?

Think about Ananias and Sapphira’s story. How are we tempted to act similarly in the church today?

What are some ways we can seek to have hearts like Barnabas’s instead of like Ananias and Sapphira’s?

How is sharing the gospel with others an act of generosity?

PRAYER

Praise God for the gifts He has given each of us. Ask that He would help your group be good stewards and become more radically generous, like Barnabas. Ask Him to help your group turn away from any envy and pride in your hearts and love each other in a manner that honors Him.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

July 13, 2025 --- Acts 5:12-42

COMMENTARY

Acts 4:32-5:11

4:32-35 As long as there was complete unanimity of purpose and intention among them, the early Christians shared their possessions freely, such that there was not a needy person among them. They were able to do this not because of their own strength, but because great grace was on all of them. Therefore, the generosity was above all a work of God. Yet trouble was coming (5:1-11).

4:36-37 Joseph (aka Barnabas) led by example, selling his field and donating all the proceeds to the church. Such charitable acts inspired others to do good but also incited some to seek acclaim.

5:1-2 Not everyone shared in Joseph's liberality. Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property but kept back part of the sale price despite claiming otherwise (v. 8).

5:3-4 Ananias and Sapphira assumed they were merely lying to men (the apostles), but in reality they had lied to the Holy Spirit who is ever-present in the church. Peter's wording indicates that the Holy Spirit is God. Peter's question (wasn't it at your disposal?) implies that Ananias and Sapphira would have been justified to sell the land and give only a portion to the church. Their sin lay in their deception and their desire to win praise.

5:5-9 The deception of Ananias and Sapphira, and in particular Sapphira's lie to Peter, was a test of the Spirit of the Lord. This is a powerful indication of the Spirit's role in the church and church leadership; Peter was a mere man, but he was God's man to lead this fellowship of believers.

5:11 On fear as a response to the workings of God, see v. 5; 2:43; 9:31; 19:17.