

Unit 30, Session 4
Peter Confronted Sin (Acts 4–5)



Dear families,

One of Scripture's most prominent warnings against false motives comes to us in Acts 5: the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Amid the church's unity and generosity in the previous chapter, the husband and wife's scheme stands in stark contrast. Though this couple sought to appear generous before others, the Holy Spirit unveiled their treachery so that the church could remain on mission for the Lord.

Why did the church members lay their money at the feet of the apostles? What was the Holy Spirit's role in the downfalls of Ananias and Sapphira?

The last section of Acts 4 recounted the oneness of the early church, as they lived in fellowship and in concern for one another. To lay something at another person's feet signified a trust in that person's responsibility over what had been given. We read that the early church members' desire was for the apostles to distribute their proceeds where they would be most beneficial for others. Their generosity was honoring to God and fulfilled the commands of Deuteronomy 15. Ultimately, it was the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the early church that transformed their hearts to give generously and joyfully to the Lord.

On the other hand, Ananias and Sapphira tried to appear like they had unselfish virtues, yet they held fast to greedy motives. While others obeyed the Holy Spirit's power at work, Ananias and Sapphira allowed the desires of their flesh to take precedence over the good works God prepared for them. They lied and therefore grieved the Holy Spirit by claiming to give all they had. Their actions did not match the motives they proclaimed, a danger that many in the church can fall prey to even today.

As you prepare to teach this passage to kids, be sure to emphasize the Christlike love at work in the life of the early church. Though greed and self-gain seemed too big a temptation for Ananias and Sapphira, we can lead lives of obedience to the Holy Spirit, recognizing the extravagance and sacrificial love of Christ that transforms our hearts to live on mission for Him.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** Jesus gave up all He had to share His riches with us and give us life with God forever.
- **Younger Preschool:** God's Spirit changes us so we want to share with others. Jesus gave up everything to share His riches with us and give us life with God forever.
- **Older Preschool:** Ananias and Sapphira pretended to be generous, but they wanted to keep money for themselves. The Holy Spirit changes us so we want to share with others. Jesus gave up everything He had to share His riches with us and give us life with God forever.
- **Kids:** Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look generous, but they were greedy and chose to lie. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts to want to share with those in need. Jesus generously gave all He had so we can share in His riches and have forgiveness and eternal life.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Younger Preschool:** Why does God want Christians to tell others about Jesus? We tell others about Jesus so they can know Him and love Him.
- **Older Preschool:** Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus? We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe in Him.
- **Kids:** Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus? We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe the good news.

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** Tell others about Jesus. Romans 10:14
- **Younger Preschool:** We need to tell others about Jesus so they can believe in Him. Romans 10:14
- **Older Preschool:** How can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14
- **Kids:** How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14

**** Next week:** We Are to Tell Others about Jesus (Romans 10)