

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 11 - Ananias and Sapphira - [Acts 5:1-11](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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Ananias and Sapphira

5 Now a certain man named Ananias, together with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property they owned.

2 But, with his wife in agreement, he kept back some of the proceeds, turning over only part of the money to the apostles, while claiming he was giving the whole amount.

3 “Ananias!” Peter challenged him. “Why have you allowed Satan to fill your heart so that you would lie to the Holy Spirit, and keep back part of the money you received for the property?”

4 “Before it was sold, didn’t it belong to you? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money yours? Why did you plot this thing in your heart? You haven’t lied to men. You’ve lied to God!”*

*Acts 5:3,4 – By comparing verses 3 and 4 we see that the Holy Spirit is regarded as Deity, God Himself.

5 As soon as Ananias heard this he fell down dead. As a result, all who heard about it were terrified.

6 The young men then came in, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

7 About three hours later, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 “Tell me,” Peter asked her, “was this the full amount you and your husband received for your property?”

“Yes,” she said, “that was the amount.”

9 “How could you dare to conspire together!” Peter challenged her, “and think you could fool the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the men who buried your husband are at the door, and now they will carry you out too!”

10 Instantly she fell down at his feet and died! When the young men came in and found her dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 So now great fear gripped the whole church and all others who heard what had happened.

DISCUSSIONS QUESTIONS

Lesson 11 - Ananias and Sapphira - [Acts 5:1-11](#)

140. What did Ananias and Sapphira sell? ([5:1](#))
141. How did Ananias and Sapphira's transaction compare with Barnabas's? ([5:1-2](#))
142. What did Ananias and Sapphira do with the proceeds from the sale of their property? ([5:1-2](#))
143. How did Peter recognize when he was being lied to? ([5:3-4](#))
144. To whom did Ananias lie? ([5:3-4](#))
145. What was Ananias's sin? ([5:3-4](#))
146. What was the consequence of Ananias's sin? ([5:5](#))
147. After listening to Peter's words, what happened to Ananias? ([5:5](#))
148. How did people respond to Ananias's death? ([5:5](#))
149. What was done with Ananias's body? ([5:6](#))
150. How long after Ananias's death did Sapphira come before Peter? ([5:7](#))
151. How did Peter test Sapphira? ([5:7-8](#))
152. How did Sapphira respond to Peter? ([5:8](#))
153. What rhetorical question did Peter ask Sapphira? ([5:9](#))
154. What devastating announcement did Peter make to Sapphira? ([5:9](#))
155. How did Sapphira's end compare with that of her husband? ([5:10](#))
156. How did the early church respond to these events? ([5:11](#))

Lesson 12 - The Apostles Heal Many - [Acts 5:12-16](#)

Miracles and Wonders

¹²Many miracles and wonders were performed through the hands of the apostles among the people. By common consent,* the believers all met together in the part of the Temple known as Solomon's Porch.

*Acts 5:12 – “By common consent,” that is, *they were all with one accord*.

¹³None of the others dared to join them, though they continued to hold them in high regard.

¹⁴But great numbers of new followers of the Lord, both men and women, continued to join them.

¹⁵As a result of the miracles, people even carried the sick out into the streets on beds and couches, hoping that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

¹⁶And crowds of people kept coming in from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those troubled by evil spirits, and they were all healed!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 12 - The Apostles Heal Many - [Acts 5:12-16](#)

157. What kind of work did the apostles do among the people? ([5:12](#))
158. Where did the believers meet? ([5:12](#))
159. Even though the Christians were highly thought of, why were some people afraid to join them? ([5:13](#))
160. Why did the people seek physical healing from the apostles? ([5:13-15](#))
161. Despite the fear which kept many people away, what happened to the Christian church during this time? ([5:14](#))
162. Why did some people feel that even Peter's shadow might help them? ([5:14-15](#))
163. From where did the people who gathered around the apostles come? ([5:16](#))
164. Besides the sick, who else was brought to the apostles for healing? ([5:16](#))

165. What happened to all those who came to be made well? ([5:16](#))

Lesson 13 - The Apostles Persecuted - [Acts 5:17-42](#)

The Apostles are Persecuted

17 Filled with extreme jealous anger, the High Priest and all his associates, who were members of the Sadducees sect, *finally took action*.

18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the city jail.*

*Acts 5:18 – “Put them in the city jail,” that is, *in a public jail*.

19 But during the night, an angel of the Lord opened the jail doors and brought them out, and said,

20 “Go and stand in the Temple courts, and keep telling the people all about this new life.”

*Acts 5:20 – “Keep telling the people all about this new life,” that is, *the whole message of this life*.

21 *They obeyed*, and entered the Temple area at dawn and began to teach.

When the High Priest and his associates arrived, they called together all the elders of Israel for a full meeting of the Council and then sent word to the jail to have the prisoners brought in.

22 But when the officers arrived at the jail, they couldn’t find the prisoners. So they returned and reported:

23 “We found the jail securely locked, and the guards were standing outside in front of the doors, but when we opened the doors and went in there was no one inside!”

24 On hearing the report, the High Priest, the captain of the Temple guard, and the chief priests were deeply perplexed as to what had happened to them, and wondered what was going on.

*Acts 5:24 – “And wondered what was going on,” or *whereunto this would grow*.

25 Then someone came in and told them, “Look, the men you put in jail are standing right now in the Temple courts teaching the people.”

26 Immediately the captain went with his officers and arrested them. They didn’t use force, however, because they were afraid the people might stone them.

27When they brought them in, they made them stand in front of the assembled Council. Then the High Priest brought accusation.

28“Didn’t we give you strict orders that you are not to continue to teach in the name of this man?” he challenged them. “But look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching! And you seem determined to make us responsible for his death!”

29Then Peter and the other apostles replied, “We must obey God, not men!

30“**You murdered Jesus by nailing Him to a cross! But the God of our ancestors raised Him back to life.**

31“**Now God has elevated Him to the place of highest honor, at His right hand, to be the Prince and Savior, to give Israel the chance to turn from their sinning and serve and obey God,* and receive His forgiveness of their sins.**

**Acts 5:31 – “To give Israel the chance to turn from their sinning and serve and obey God,” or to give repentance to Israel.*

“And receive His forgiveness of their sins.” Notice that Peter states that a turning from our sins to God is a necessary condition for receiving forgiveness. Conversion means a turning from darkness to light, from Satan to God (See Acts 26:18).

32“**And we are His witnesses concerning these things, and the Holy Spirit is too, whom God has given to those that obey Him.”**

33When the Council members heard this, they were furious,* and began talking among themselves about having them put to death.

**Acts 5:33 – “When the Council members heard this, they were furious,” that is, they were cut to the heart.*

34Then one of them, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law whom everyone highly respected, stood up. He gave orders that the apostles be taken outside for a brief time.

35Then he said to the Council, “Men of Israel, think carefully about what you are intending to do to these men.

36“Some time ago Theudas appeared on the scene, claiming to be someone great. About four hundred men followed him. But when he was killed, all of his followers scattered, and that was the end of that.

37“Later, Judas from Galilee made his appearance, during the time the census was being taken. He also drew quite a following. But he was also killed, and all of his followers were scattered.

38“**In this case, my advice is: Stay away from these men! Leave them alone! Because if this plan and action is of human origin, it will come to nothing.**

39“But if it is from God, there is no way that you can overthrow it. In that case, you would find yourselves actually fighting against God.”

40Convinced by his logic, they called the apostles back in and had them whipped. After again demanding that they no longer speak in the name of Jesus, they let them go.

41So the apostles left the Council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the sake of Jesus.

42Every day in the Temple courts and in people’s homes, they never stopped teaching and preaching the Great News that Jesus is the Messiah.

*Acts 5:42 – “Preaching the Great News that Jesus is the Messiah,” that is, *the Christ*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 13 - The Apostles Persecuted - [Acts 5:17-42](#)

166. Why were the religious leaders opposed to the apostles? ([5:17](#))
167. What happened when the Christians were put in jail? ([5:18-19](#))
168. What did the angel tell the apostles to do? ([5:20](#))
169. When did the apostles start teaching? ([5:21](#))
170. What did the elders of Israel discover after they met together? ([5:21-24](#))
171. How were the apostles brought before the Sanhedrin? ([5:25-27](#))
172. How had the apostles disobeyed the council? ([5:28](#))
173. Why did the high priest avoid mentioning the name of Jesus? ([5:28](#))
174. What reason did the apostles give for their disobedience? ([5:29](#))
175. What made the Jewish elders furious? ([5:29-32](#))
176. Who intervened on behalf of Peter and the others? How? ([5:34-39](#))
177. What advice did Gamaliel offer the council? ([5:38-39](#))
178. What effect did Gamaliel’s speech have? ([5:40](#))
179. How did the elders deal with the apostles? ([5:40](#))

180. What did the apostles do after they left the Sanhedrin? ([5:41-42](#))