

# Ananias & Sapphira

## They Lied to God

1st - 3rd Grade  
Lesson 2

In our last lesson, we learned that God sent His Spirit to live in the hearts of His children. It was an exciting time in Jerusalem.

Many who were saved at this time needed food and shelter. Barnabas wanted to help them. The Bible says Barnabas, “having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet” (Acts 4:37).

There was a man and his wife in Jerusalem who saw what Barnabas did. Their names were Ananias and Sapphira. They decided to sell some land too. But they decided not to give all of the money to the disciples. They planned to keep part of it for themselves. There was one problem with their plan. They also chose to lie about what they were doing. In this lesson, we will find out just how much this lie cost Ananias and Sapphira.

### What Did They Do?

Maybe people praised Barnabas for selling his land and giving the money to help others. Maybe Ananias and Sapphira wanted people to praise them too. We don’t really know why they did it. All we know is that they told a lie.

*But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.*

—Acts 5:1-2

Ananias and Sapphira sold their land and kept part of the money. Then Ananias went to take the money to the disciples. He told them it was all of the money he got from selling his land. He thought no one knew about his lie. But God knew. And God told Peter.

Peter asked Ananias why he lied about the money. He told Ananias that they didn’t have to sell their land. And they could have kept all the money. They didn’t have to give it away. Their sin was lying. Peter told them that their lie was to God, not to men (Acts 5:4).

### What Did It Cost Them?

God says in Proverbs 6:16-17 that there are six things He hates. The second thing on the list is “a lying tongue.” God was not happy that Ananias lied.

As soon as Ananias heard Peter’s words, he fell down dead. Some of the men picked him up and took him out and buried him. A few hours later, Sapphira came to talk to the disciples. She did not yet know what had happened to Ananias. Peter asked her how much money she and Ananias had gotten from selling their land. And just as they had planned, Sapphira lied about it. Peter said to her, “How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?” (Acts 5:9)

Peter told her that Ananias had died for telling a lie. He told her she would also die for lying to God. As soon as Peter said that, Sapphira fell down and died. And the men carried her out and buried her by her husband.

This lie cost Ananias and Sapphira a lot. It cost them their lives. They might have been very good people before this happened. But the devil tempted them to sin. And they gave in to the devil. People would no longer think of them as good Christians. People would remember them as liars.

This lie also cost them a chance to serve the Lord. God gives each of us one life to live. If we are going to live for God and serve Him, we must do it during our lifetime. Ananias and Sapphira lost their chance to live for God.

### **How Did It Affect the Church?**

Everyone who heard about the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira feared God. That means they remembered how holy and just God is.

After this, God blessed the apostles in a special way. He gave them power to do many miracles. Many more people were saved and baptized.

When we live right and obey God's Word, He will use us to do His work. He will use us to tell others about Him.

## **Teacher's Notes**

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