

Ananias & Sapphira

They Lied to God

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 2

In the last lesson, we learned what happened at Pentecost. Many people were saved! Many people were baptized and followed Christ. Jerusalem was an exciting place after Pentecost! The good news of Jesus was being spread everywhere! Everyone was learning about Jesus and telling others about Him. A revival was happening in Jerusalem. People wanted to serve God together.

Many people were giving money and land to the apostles. People who trusted Jesus were giving up everything they had. Everyone was excited about serving Jesus!

And Josos, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

—Acts 4:36-37

The book of Acts tells us about a man named Barnabas. He sold his land and gave all of the money to the apostles. Acts tells us a lot about Barnabas's life. God used him to tell many people about Jesus. In this lesson, we are going to learn about two people who wanted everyone to think they had given everything. Their names were Ananias and Sapphira.

What Did They Do?

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

The Bible says that Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, sold land they owned and pretended to give all the money to the apostles. But they really kept part of the money for themselves. Barnabas had given all of his money to the apostles. Maybe Ananias and Sapphira wanted everyone to think they were as good as Barnabas. No matter the reason, they were not honest. They said they were giving all of the money, but they kept some for themselves.

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

—Acts 5:3-4

Ananias came to the apostles and told Peter that he was going to give all of the money to them. Peter knew that he was lying. He told Ananias that he shouldn't have lied. Ananias and

Sapphira were lying not only to the church, but also to the Holy Ghost.

What Did It Cost Them?

And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

—Acts 5:5-10

After Peter finished talking to Ananias, Ananias died! Everyone who saw it was very afraid. God takes it very seriously when we lie. Later that day, Sapphira came to the apostles. Peter asked her if they had given all of their money to the church. She lied just like her husband did, and she died right away just like her husband did. Ananias and Sapphira decided to do something sinful, and they were both punished for it.

It is never good to agree with someone to sin. Ananias and Sapphira lost their lives in just a few moments. They were not able to serve God any more.

It is never right to lie. Sometimes, we think it is not wrong to tell a lie in order to get out of trouble. That is not true. Lying is always a sin, and God does not like it. The devil tries to tell us that lying is okay. The Bible tells us that the devil is the father of lies. We should ask God every day to help us to tell the truth.

How Did It Affect the Church?

And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

—Acts 5:11

The people that saw Ananias and Sapphira die were filled with fear. They saw the power of the Holy Spirit. God does not think sin is funny. He does not consider sin to be “no big deal.” If anyone tries to get you to join in sin, you should tell that person “no” and walk the other way. The Bible says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7). That means that if we have a proper respect for God and realize how much power He has, we will be wiser. We should be careful that we do not consider sin to be okay in some situations. Sin is never okay, and sin always has a punishment.