

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- When has someone else shown generosity toward your family? How did you feel?
- What could you share or give away to help others?
- How was Jesus generous toward sinners?

Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 4-5

STORY POINT: ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA LIED ABOUT THEIR GIFT TO THE CHURCH.

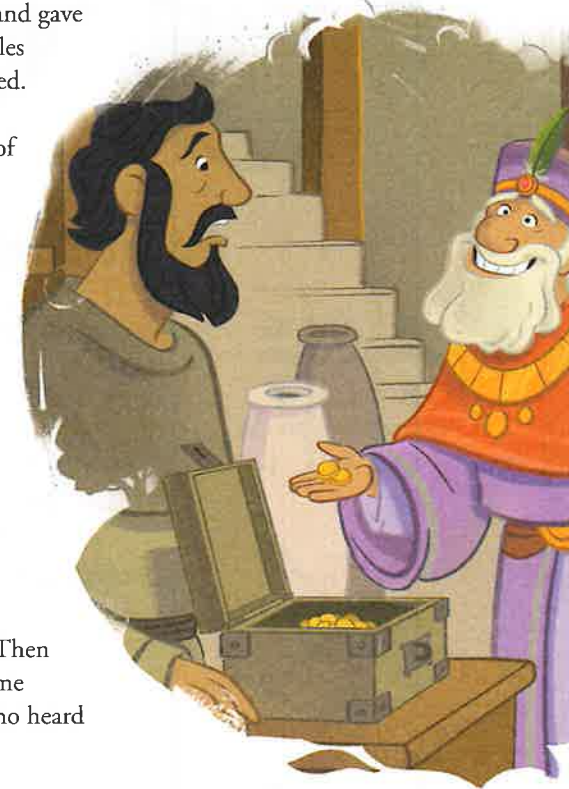
The early church was growing. A large group of believers met together in Jerusalem. They shared everything they had. If someone had more than he needed, he gladly gave it away so everyone had what he needed.

One man, Barnabas, sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. The apostles used the money to help people in need. Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, sold some land and pretended to give all of the money to the apostles, but they kept some of it for themselves.

When Ananias brought the money to the apostles, Peter asked him, "Why are you lying to the Holy Spirit?" When Ananias heard this, he fell down, died, and was buried. Everyone who heard about this was filled with fear.

About three hours later, Sapphira came to the apostles. Peter asked her, "Is this all the money you got for the land?"

"Yes," she said. "That's all of it." Then Sapphira fell dead too. Great fear came on everyone in the church and all who heard about these things.



Christ Connection: Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look generous, but they were greedy. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts to want to share with those in need because Jesus generously gave all He had so we can share in His riches and have forgiveness and eternal life.