

LESSON 48

Ananias & Sapphira

ACTS 5:1-11



— BIBLE TRUTH —

THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS Poured OUT IN GRACE, DISCIPLINE, AND POWER

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 126)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 48—one for each child; markers or crayons

Behind the Scenes

SUPPLIES: a clear jar half filled with loose change

Holding Back a Portion

SUPPLIES: a bag of large pretzel sticks; a basket

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how the deception of Ananias and Sapphira was judged by God.

Use the following questions to introduce the lesson:

- **Why do people lie?**
(to stay out of trouble or to appear more important)

- **Who are you thinking about the most when you lie?**
(Lying is most often selfish, and most lies are designed to serve self.)

Explain that the lie is the outside sin, but that there is usually an inside sin that motivates the lie. If we lie to stay out of trouble, the inside sin might be a craving for ease or peace from the consequences. If we lie to impress, the sinful craving of our hearts could be a desire to be liked by others.

Talk with the children about when they have been most tempted to lie.

Take time to pray and thank God for the truth of his Word. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 126, “Ananias & Sapphira,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What did Ananias and Sapphira do wrong?**
(They promised to give the money from the sale of their land to the apostles, but instead they kept some of the money for themselves.)

- **What happened to them?**
(God judged them by ending their lives.)

- **Why did God do this?**
(Though it does not say why God did this, it would seem that God was protecting the early church from sin.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

The Holy Spirit was poured out on the early church with great power. There was a mighty outpouring of grace in the lives of the new Christians. The transformed lives of the new believers validated the gospel message that was being proclaimed. More than ever, Luke tells us people were "added to the Lord" (Acts 5:14). When a person believes the gospel, they are not just added to some club, they are added to the "body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:27) with Jesus as the head of that body (Ephesians 1:22-23).

- What do we learn about God from this passage?
(We learn that God is holy and that he is going to protect his church. We also learn that God hates sin.)

- Did Sapphira tell the truth when Peter confronted her?
(No, she did not tell the truth. She lied by telling Peter the money she gave was the full price she and her husband received.)

- After Ananias and Sapphira died it says a great fear seized the church. How do you think fear would help protect the church?
(People would be afraid to sin knowing God who is all-knowing would see their sin. So, in that way it would help keep the church pure. It would also give the people a healthy fear of the Lord.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 48—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What is happening in the picture?
(Ananias is dying.)

- Why did God kill Ananias?
(Ananias lied about the money he got for the land he sold.)

- Did Sapphira tell the truth when she came a little later?
(No, she did not tell the truth. She lied by telling Peter the money she gave was the full price she and her husband received.)

Behind the Scenes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a clear jar half filled with loose change

This is a short skit to help the children understand Ananias and Sapphira's actions.

ANANIAS: Hey Sapphira, did you see how everyone cheered when Barnabas gave the money he got from selling his field?

SAPPHIRA: Yes, I want them to like me and cheer for me too!

ANANIAS: Hey, I have an idea! We could sell our field and give the money away for the poor, then they would cheer for us too.

SAPPHIRA: Yes, then they would really think we were good people. Hey, I've got an idea. We could tell them we were giving all the money away but keep a bunch for ourselves to buy something we want. Nobody would ever know we were not telling the truth.

ANANIAS: If we kept just a little bit we could buy something we liked. They wouldn't mind?

SAPPHIRA: Or, maybe almost all of it?

ANANIAS: That settles it. We will sell our field, keep almost all of it, but give a little of what we originally paid for it. We will be the only ones who will know the truth that we kept some, or even a lot, for ourselves.

At the end of this short skit, ask the children what was wrong about what Ananias and Sapphira did. Be sure to reference their hearts, not just the outward actions. Ananias and Sapphira lied about what they were doing with the money they got for selling their field. The Bible says we should not lie.

In this depiction of Ananias and Sapphira what are the sins in their hearts? (They loved their reputation before men rather than God; they were jealous of Barnabas; they loved money more than God.)

Show the jar to the class and tell them to pretend the jar of money was the payment Ananias and Sapphira received for their land. Then ask the following questions:

- Were Ananias and Sapphira allowed to sell their field?

(Yes, the field belonged to them.)

Could they have kept all the money for themselves? (Yes, the money they received for the field was their money.)

- Could they have given half to the church and kept half for themselves?

(Yes, the money was theirs to give or keep.)

- Could they have given half the money to the church but told everyone they gave ALL the money they received from the sale of their land?

(No, if they were only giving half, they could not say they were giving all. That is a lie. That is the sin they committed.)

Holding Back a Portion

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag of large pretzel sticks
- ✓ a basket

The object of this lesson is to help the children understand what Ananias and Sapphira did. Have an adult helper carry enough pretzel sticks for each child in a basket, showing them off in the following skit.

TEACHER: Hi! What do you have in your basket?

HELPER: Pretzels, delicious pretzels.

TEACHER: Did you bring them in to share with the class?

HELPER: Well, I brought them for me. *(Helper picks out a pretzel and starts to eat it, chomping down approvingly.)*

TEACHER: It would be nice to share them with the class.

HELPER: All right, I guess I could share and give one to each child in the class.

TEACHER: Why, that would be very generous of you. Class, let's thank our helper with a round of applause!

HELPER: Oh, thank you. Well, I should be going now.

TEACHER: *(pointing to the pretzels)* Aren't you forgetting something?

HELPER: Oh, the pretzels. How silly of me. *(Pulls out one pretzel, hands it to the teacher, and then starts to walk away.)*

TEACHER: Aren't you withholding something from us? You didn't say you would give the class one pretzel. You said you would give each child a pretzel.

HELPER: Oh, OK, here. (*Hands over one pretzel.*)

TEACHER: You're still withholding what you promised.

HELPER: Oh, OK, here. (*Hands over a few more.*)

TEACHER: You're still withholding. (*passing out the pretzels*) We have more children who still don't have a pretzel.

HELPER: I guess I need to keep my word (*handing the basket to the teacher*). That is the right thing to do.

TEACHER: (*passing out the rest of the pretzels*) Thank you, helper. Class, let's give our helper a round a applause.

The teacher should then compare Ananias and Sapphira with the helper and make sure the children understand that not keeping a promise is the same as a lie.

The teacher can talk about why it is important to always tell the truth. God is a God of truth, and there is no lying with God. God commands us to tell the truth. Read portions of Hebrews 6:18 and Colossians 3:9 to support the truth that God does not lie and we should not lie either.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

