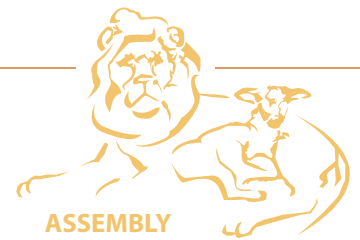


## ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 5:1-11



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

## BEHIND THE SCENES

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

- Ananias: Hey Sapphira, did you see how everyone was celebrating Barnabas giving up the money he got when he sold his field?
- Sapphira: Yes, you would think he saved someone's life. No one pays much attention to the average guy anymore since those tongues of fire fell on the disciples.
- Ananias: Hey, I have an idea! We could sell our field. It is worth four times what we paid. We could sell it at a handsome profit and then lay some of the money at the disciples feet just like Barnabas. Then they would notice us.
- Sapphira: Yes, then they would really think we were good people. We could sell it and keep half... or
- Ananias: Or, a little bit more, than half?
- 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 we held back a portion of the money.

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. Our sin is ultimately a reflection of a love of the creation rather than a love for the Creator. The Bible says you can not serve both God and money (mammon). 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.)

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### 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 them 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: (walking away) Oh, thank you. Well I should be going now.

Teacher: Aren't you forgetting something? (Teacher points to the pretzels.)

Helper: Oh, the pretzels. How silly of me. (The helper 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, okay here. (Then helper gives one more pretzel.)

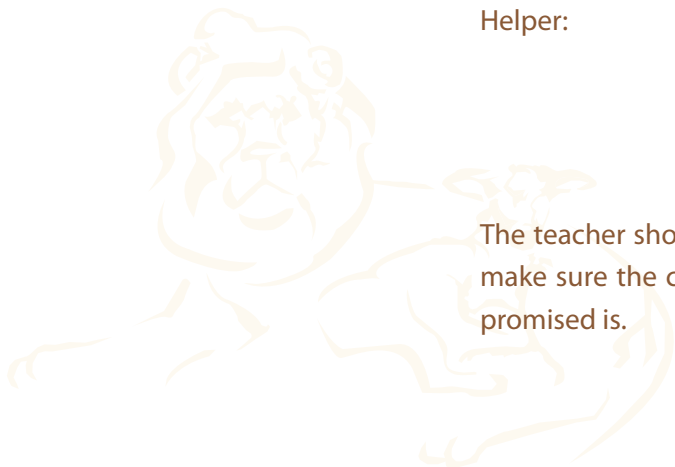
Teacher: You're still withholding what you promised.

Helper: Oh, okay, here. (The helper gives the teacher a few more.)

Teacher: You're still withholding. We have more children who still don't have a pretzel. (The teacher says this while passing out the pretzels she has.)

Helper: I guess I need to keep my word. That is the right thing to do. (The helper then hands over the basket to the teacher who passes them out and then asks the class to show their thanks one more time with a round of applause.)

The teacher should then compare Ananias and Sapphira with the helper and make sure the children understand what withholding a portion of what was promised is.



## ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

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### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

The Holy Spirit was poured out powerfully on the early church. This move of the Spirit of God launched the growth of the early church.

Ananias and Sapphira threatened to discredit the Gospel and the work of God as the church was becoming established. They sold their property but they were not interested in giving up all the money they earned from the sale. They wanted the commendation for giving the whole but did not want to sacrifice all the funds.

With the credibility of the Gospel on the line, the Spirit of God killed them both. Thus, a holy fear fell upon the people and the integrity of the Gospel was protected.

