

## Lesson 11

# Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 4:32; 5:11

Memory Verse

Behold, thou desirest  
truth in the inward parts  
and in the hidden [part]  
thou shalt make me to  
know wisdom Psalm  
51:6

Teacher's Objective

At the end of the  
session, the student's  
should be able to:

1. Define the word truthful
2. Locate Galatians 6:7  
and explain
3. Describe how to help  
those that are downheart-  
ed, using the example  
of Barnabas
4. Express in their own  
words how Ananias and  
Sapphira's sin was  
the lie they told

Materials Needed

See Teaching Activities  
for specific activities

## Teacher's Bible Study

There were many exciting things happening in Jerusalem after the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost. There was the sharing of God's truth with family and friends. The church was a community of those who believed in Jesus Christ, repented of their sins, were baptized, and had the laying on of hands receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. Today, many who say I attend this church or another, refer to a building. This was not the case in the New Testament church. The church in New Testament times refers to people. There is no doubt that the first church was a dynamic fellowship which was rooted in faith to Jesus Christ and were with one accord.

It is interesting to note that the Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi, covers a period of thousands of years, while the events of the New Testament barely take up 100 years. The Old Testament tells about the lives of people like Noah, Abraham, Samson, Ruth, David, and many more. While the New Testament focuses in on Jesus Christ, the apostles, and Paul.

It is in this story that we first meet up with Barnabas, and as you will see, he comes to play an important role in the history of the early church. The name, Barnabas, means son of encouragement. He came from the island of Cyprus. Barnabas was a Levite who owned land. The Old Testament ruled against Levites owning property. However, as we see in the case of Barnabas, this did not apply to those who lived outside of Israel.

Other than what is recorded in these verses, we know very little about this Christian couple, Ananias and Sapphira. Ananias means God is gracious. Sapphira means beautiful. Ananias was not appreciative of the graciousness of God, nor was Sapphira's lack of moral integrity beautiful.

Without pause, the Bible tells of the sacrifice of Barnabas read Acts 4:36. The following verses tell of the hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira. With lies and misrepresentation, Ananias and Sapphira seek to be notable among the people for their generous gift. Maybe they were jealous of Barnabas.

This story is reminiscent of Achan in Judges 7.

Provide copies of Activity Page for each age group, enough for all your students. Cut out letter for the truthful banner. Provide poster board, ribbon or yarn, glue, scissors, and pencils for the activity you choose.

## Presenting the Bible Story

Ask your students if it is possible to hide who you are by wearing a mask? Why do people like to wear a mask? Why do people pretend to be something they are not? Can we fool God about who we really are?

Acts 4:32 35

God was working in the hearts of the believers. They shared the truth of God with many. The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to preach about Jesus' resurrection with tremendous power. Those who did believe in Jesus sold their goods voluntarily and distributed them to those in need.

Acts 4:36 37

Acts 5:1

Evidently, Jesus was given the name Barnabas because of his ability to encourage the downhearted. Barnabas means son of encouragement. Numbers 18:20-24 tells about how Levites were prohibited from owning property. How did Barnabas own property? Levites were not to own land in Israel. The land Barnabas owned may have been on the island of Cyprus. The other possibility is that the land restriction was no longer observed.

Acts 5:2 4

Ananias and Sapphira chose to sell their land. This was a voluntary act. They could have kept the money if they wanted to. The money was theirs to use as they wished.

Acts 5:5 6

Keeping back a portion of the money was not the sin of Ananias and Sapphira. The sin was lying about it. They said that they had given all the money when they had only given a part of the money. Peter says to Ananias, Satan has filled your heart.... This verb filled implies control or influence. The same verb filled is used in Ephesians 5:18, Be filled with the Spirit.... Ananias allowed Satan to control and influence him. Peter reprimands Ananias by saying he has not lied to men but to God.

Acts 5:7 10

Ananias died after he heard these words. Read I Peter 4:17. Peter wrote this later that judgment begins with the family of God. This was certainly a sin unto death. Read I John 5:16. Just as Achan was an example to Israel, this discipline was an example to the church then and is an example for us today. Read I Corinthians 10:6.

Acts 5:11

Sapphira did not know her husband was dead when she came to see Peter. She continued the lie. Do not think for a moment that you can deceive God. Read Galatians 6:7.

Art and Activities

There was great fear felt by all those who heard about the discipline of Ananias and Sapphira. God certainly got his point across about His displeasure with sin and dishonesty. Discipline such as this was not seen in Israel. God had marked His church. He was working with this newly formed church.

## Teaching Activities

Young Children

Make a truthful banner. Cut out letters that spell Be Truthful. Glue

the letters down on a sheet of paper. Glue this paper on a colorful poster board that is out 1/2 inch larger than the paper with the statement on it. Cut ribbon or yarn and glue it to poster board. Show your students how they may hang it in their room, reminding them to always tell the truth.

Match the picture with the word and then color the pictures. Color the picture of Peter and Ananias.

Older Children

Do the same project as the younger children, except use the memory verse on the banner.

A crossword puzzle and word search are the activity pages.

Explore with  
your students the  
following questions:

## Explore the Subject

1. What were some of the eventstaking place in Jerusalem after the day of Pentecost? (The sharing of God s truth with family and friends.)

2. When you speak of attending church, do you mean the building or the people? Is the church a community ?

3. Is it a good idea to lie in order to exalt oneself in the eyes of others?

Always close  
your class  
with prayer

## Respond and Reinforce

1. Barnabas left an excellent example of how we should go about encouraging others. How will you follow this example in the days ahead. Write a short paragraph.

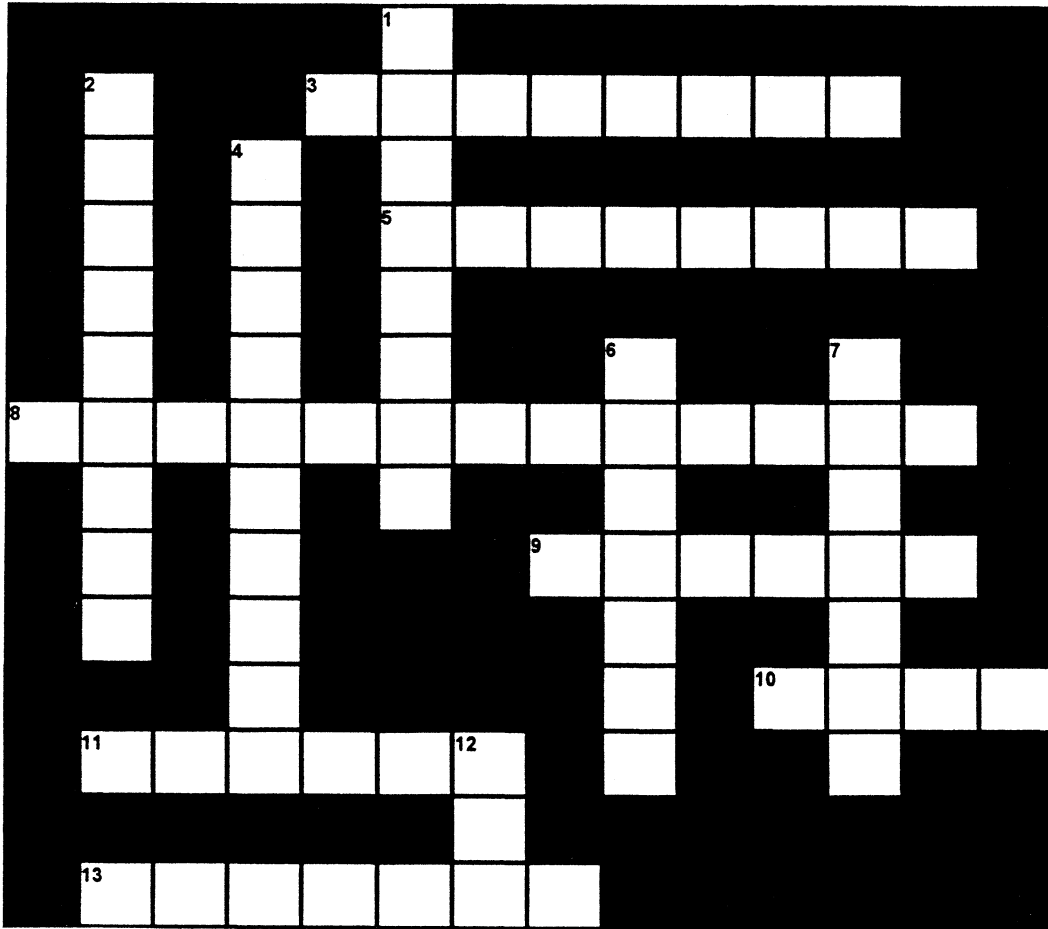
2. Discuss the memory verse.

## Activity Page

### Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 4:32 – 5:11

Ananias means “God is gracious.” Sapphira means “beautiful.” Ananias did not appreciate the graciousness of God, nor was Sapphira morally beautiful when she lied. This couple seemed to think that high regard from fellow Christians was more important than obeying God by telling the truth. Do the crossword puzzle below.



#### Across

3. His name means “son of encouragement.”
5. Another word for land
8. To give support
9. Not telling the truth
10. Another word for property
11. Barnabas came from this island
13. To use equally with others

#### Down

1. She was married to Ananias
2. A group sharing in common
4. Companionship
6. It was ruled that they could not own property
7. His name means “God is gracious”
12. When you lie, you commit a \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Activity Page

### Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 4:32 – 5:11

Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, sold their land. They told Peter that they gave all the money from the sale of their property to the church. When they lied about the money, they sinned.

Match the picture below with the word, then color the pictures.



**Money**

**Land**

**Ananias**



**Sapphira**

## Activity Page

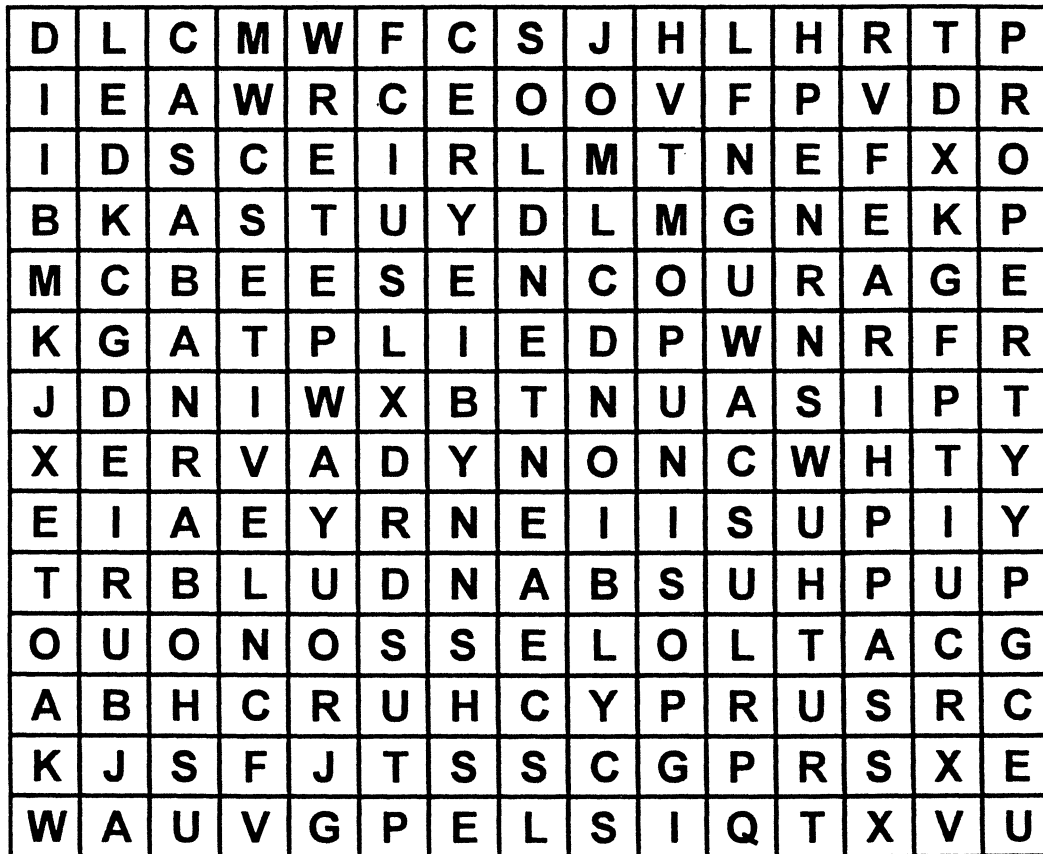
### Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 4:32 – 5:11

Many exciting things were happening in Jerusalem after the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost. There was the sharing of God's truth with family and friends.

The church was forming a community for those who believed in Jesus, repented of their sins, were baptized, and had the laying on of hands.

Below is a list of words found in today's story. Find them in the word search puzzle.



Acts	Cyprus	Jealous	Property
Ananias	Encourage	Land	Sapphira
Barnabas	Fear	Lesson	Share
Blessed	Fellowship	Levites	Sin
Buried	God	Lied	Sold
Church	Holy Spirit	Obey	Truth
Community	Husband	Peter	Wife

## Activity Page

### Peter and Ananias

Acts 5:4

Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit .Why have you conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God



## Art Activity

### Proverb Plaque

#### Materials Needed:

Construction paper  
Colorful poster board  
Crayons or felt-tip pens  
Glue  
Ribbon or yarn  
Scissors

#### Directions:

Color the picture  
Cut out and glue to heavier paper or construction paper  
Attach ribbon for hanging

Attach ribbon for hanging

