

Acts 4:32 - 5:11

Pray: Heavenly Father, please help us to understand your word and then help us to live by it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Starter Question: Has someone ever lied to you? How did it feel? Why is lying bad?

Read...

³²The group of believers were joined in their hearts, and they had the same spirit. No person in the group said that the things he had were his own. Instead, they shared everything. ³³With great power the apostles were telling people that the Lord Jesus was truly raised from death. And God blessed all the believers very much. ³⁴They all received the things they needed. Everyone that owned fields or houses sold them. They brought the money ³⁵and gave it to the apostles. Then each person was given the things he needed.

³⁶One of the believers was named Joseph. The apostles called him Barnabas. (This name means "one who encourages.") He was a Levite, born in Cyprus. ³⁷Joseph owned a field. He sold it, brought the money, and gave it to the apostles.

5 A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some land. ²But he gave only part of the money to the apostles. He secretly kept some of it for himself. His wife knew about this, and she agreed to it. ³Peter said, "Ananias, why did you let Satan rule your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit. Why did you keep part of the money you received for the land for yourself? ⁴Before you sold the land, it belonged to you. And even after you sold it, you could have used the money any way you wanted. Why did you think of doing this? You lied to God, not to men!" ⁵⁻⁶When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. Some young men came in, wrapped up his body, carried it out, and buried it. And everyone who heard about this was filled with fear.

⁷ About three hours later his wife came in. She did not know what had happened. ⁸ Peter said to her, "Tell me how much money you got for your field. Was it this much?"

Sapphira answered, "Yes, that was the price."

⁹ Peter said to her, "Why did you and your husband agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The men who buried your husband are at the door! They will carry you out." ¹⁰ At that moment Sapphira fell down by his feet and died. The young men came in and saw that she was dead. They carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ The whole church and all the others who heard about these things were filled with fear.

(International Children's Bible)

Watch a short video of the story here -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQqUZuh-Hc0>

Questions

1. What did Ananias and his wife Sapphira do wrong?
2. What does this story teach us about God?
3. How should we respond?
4. If Ananias and Sapphira are a warning to us how is Barnabas in Acts 4:36-37 an example to us?

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for this strong warning from your word. Please forgive us all the ways we have lied to you and to others. Please by your Holy Spirit work in us that we might grow in honesty and openness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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A W O Y B B S O I T L H
N D C L A A Q A I D A L
A P E T E R R R T B N Q
N Z O I U K I N A A D I
I Y T W L P M R A G N S
A A P O S T L E S B A S
S K W Y Q C C U J P A E
Q D L J D E R A H S Y S
I O L D Y T P I A E X U
H A I E Y A R G N G Q O
B E B K I A P O A Y S H
D B Q A W F M R A E F U

ANANIAS

DIED

HOLY SPIRIT

LIED

SAPHIRA

APOSTLES

FEAR

HOUSES

MONEY

SATAN

BARNABAS

FIELDS

LAND

PETER

SHARED