

Unit 29 • Session 1 January 10, 2021

Ananias and Sapphira

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Acts 4–5

Story Point: Ananias and Sapphira lied about their gift to the church.

KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 12:5 We who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Countdown

Sing and give offering (3–12 min.)

Introduce the session (2 min.)

Big picture question (1 min.)

Big picture answer (1 min.)

Tell the Bible story (10 min.)

Christ connection

Group demonstration (5 min.)

Review (4 min.)

Key passage (5 min.)

Group game (5–10 min.)

Missions moment (6 min.)

Announcements (2 min.)

Prayer (2 min.)

Additional idea

TEACH the Story

Session Title: Ananias and Sapphira

Bible Passage: Acts 4–5

Story Point: Ananias and Sapphira lied about their gift to the church.

Key Passage: We who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.
Romans 12:5 CSB

Big Picture Question: What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Countdown

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

Sing and give offering (3–12 min.)

We give back to God through worshipping Him!

Opening Song “Even If”

Theme Song “This is Where the Mission Begins”

Unit Song “The Story”

Unit Song “A Mission From Above”

Introduce the session (2 min.)

[*Connie is examining her coin collection with a magnifying glass. Jake enters and starts looking at the coins closely for a few seconds before speaking.*]

Jake • Soooo, what are we looking for?

Connie • [*acts surprised*] Oh! Jake, I was so wrapped up in my coins that I didn’t notice you there.

Jake • Sorry about that, I had no idea coins could be so riveting.

Connie • Oh, are they ever! I have spent years collecting these, each one is special to me; each has its own story, its own origin, its own reason for being important. I could go on and on and on.

Jake • I don’t doubt it! So, back to my original question, what are we looking for?

Connie • Well, I’m heading to the Callahan, Colorado Coin Collector’s Convention next weekend...

Jake • [*under his breath*] Wow, that’s a mouthful.

Connie • ...or the CCCCC for short. I’m trying to decide which of my beautiful, precious coins to trade for an even more beautiful, precious coin. But they are all so special to me; I’m not sure I’m willing to give one up.

Jake • But you would get another coin in its place?

Connie • Exactly, and this isn’t just any coin. I’m looking to trade for a mint condition 1955 Doubled Die Lincoln Cent.

Jake • [*under his breath*] Wow, another mouthful.

Connie • But in order to get that coin, I have to decide what I’m going to trade for it and therein lies the dilemma.

Jake • So you need to be willing to give up the coins you love, but you get something even better?

Connie • Yeah, I guess that’s what I’m struggling with.

Jake • That reminds me of a Bible story! In this story, everyone was giving all they had to the church, but one couple was struggling with how many of their coins to give. Let’s check it out!

Big picture question (1 min.)

Jake • As we get ready to talk about two people who lied about a gift to the church, it's important to make sure we know what the church is.

Connie • *What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.*

Jake • The church is the family of God; it's about the people, not the building. We're going to think about that together over the next few weeks!

Big picture answer (1 min.)

Connie • Last week, we learned about living like Jesus.

Jake • That's right. Peter was a disciple and a leader in the early church and he wrote two letters in the Bible to help believers who were facing hard times.

Connie • Peter wanted people to follow Jesus, even when it was not easy.

Jake • In today's Bible passage, we are back with the early church. These people were very close and cared for each other. They wanted to live like Jesus and according to His commands.

Connie • We are going to learn about two members of the early church: Ananias and Sapphira.

Jake • **Ananias and Sapphira lied about their gift to the church.**

Connie • They wanted to look generous, but they were greedy.

Jake • That's never a good thing, let's listen and see how the story turns out.

Tell the Bible story (10 min.)

Bible Story Acts 4–5.

Watch the Bible story video "Ananias and Sapphira."

Jake • This group of believers was very generous. The Bible says when someone had a need, the others gladly and generously gave to meet that need.

Connie • Yes! They wanted to love and care for each other well. The Holy Spirit was at work within them. Barnabas even sold a field and gave all the money to the apostles. That's so selfless!

Jake • It really is. But then, problems started. Ananias and Sapphira were a couple within the early church who lied about their gift to the church.

Connie • Jake, do you think Ananias and Sapphira got in trouble because they didn't give all of their money?

Jake • That's a great question, Connie, I can see why you might think that. But, they weren't punished because they didn't give all of their money. They were punished because they lied about what they were offering to God. Peter even explains that the money was theirs to do with what they wanted. They didn't have to give any of it!

Connie • Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look generous, but they were greedy. They wanted everyone else to think highly of them, so they lied.

Jake • And not only did they lie to the apostles, they lied to God.

Connie • God wanted them to have generous hearts, but He did not care how much money they gave.

God cares about our hearts and our intentions. He wanted Ananias and Sapphira to be honest with Him, no matter what.

Jake • We can be generous with others because Jesus is generous with us.

Christ Connection

Tip: Consider using your Bible and the gospel poster provided to explain to kids how to become a Christian. Anytime you invite kids to respond in a large group setting, make sure you have counselors available to speak with kids individually to answer questions.

Connie • 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. Jesus generously gave all He had so that we can share in His riches and have forgiveness and eternal life.

Jake • We can give because Jesus gave first.

Connie • That's right, Jesus gave the best gift of all; He died and rose again so that we could have a relationship with God forever.

Jake • We give out of the love that He has shown us. We can follow His example and give to others generously.

Connie • And when we give to others, we want it to be with a kind, generous heart, not out of pressure or trying to outdo someone else.

Jake • Ananias and Sapphira cared more about what other people thought of them than they cared about actually being generous.

Connie • Jesus' generosity is out of His genuine love for us. We should give out of genuine love for others.

Group demonstration (5 min.)

Allergy Alert
boxed cake mix
cup of ice
carton of heavy cream

Before worship, collect a box cake mix, a cup of ice, and a carton of heavy cream. Have the items hidden under a table. Invite a volunteer onto stage and ask her if she would like cake and ice cream. If she says yes, reveal the ingredients.

Connie • Expecting cake and ice cream and finding out all we have are the ingredients for those treats probably felt disappointing. In a way, this helps us see the problem with Ananias and Sapphira. They had the opportunity to show real generosity, and tried to make it seem as though they were, but they lied. What they did wasn't true generosity, because they didn't give cheerfully.

Jake • I think I get it. You said you had cake and ice cream, when you didn't. They said they had given all the money while holding some back.

Connie • Exactly! It isn't always easy, but we can trust the Holy Spirit to change our hearts and help us put action to our words.

Review (4 min.)

Jake • Connie, let's talk about what we learned today. I think it's time for some review questions!

What was special about the early church? (*They were very generous, if someone had more than he needed, he gladly gave it away, Acts 4:32-35*)

Why did Ananias and Sapphira pretend to give all of the money they got? (*Because they wanted to look generous, Acts 5:1-2*)

Why were Ananias and Sapphira punished? (*They were punished because they lied about how much they gave to the church, not because they didn't give all of their earnings to the church, Acts 5:3-5*)

What does this story teach me about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, 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 live on mission better?

Key passage (5 min.)

Jake • Connie, what do you think is the most important part of the body?

Connie • This feels like a trick question, all of the parts are important.

Jake • Exactly! Every part of the body plays an important role. That is what our key passage talks about!

Just like every part of our body is important, every person in the church is important.

Connie • That makes sense! So each person has a special role to play?

Jake • That's right! God has a special purpose for each member of the church. God tells us to all work together to show the world His love. Let's read the verse together.

Read Romans 12:5 and encourage the kids to read along in their Bibles.

Display the key passage poster for kids to read.

Sing "We Who Are Many (Romans 12:5)."

Display the key passage poster for kids to read.

Group game (5–10 min.)

I give...

Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. The first kid will say "I give a..." and fill in an item. This can be something they would like to receive, something silly, something serious, or even something they've given as a gift before. The next kid in the circle will say the previous item as well as add their own item on. The following kid will say the previous two items and then add their own on to the list. Continue, until everyone gets a chance. The group can help kids as the list gets longer.

Jake • Generosity isn't really about what you give, or how much. It's about why you are giving, and your attitude while giving.

Connie • That's right. Even a stange gift can be generous if you give with the right motives. God wants us to be cheerful givers, no matter what we are giving. He wants us to give because we want to give.

Jake • Ananias and Sapphira were giving because of how they wanted people to see them. They wanted people to see them as more generous than they were.

Connie • We can give generously to others because God first gave generously to us.

Missions moment (6 min.)

Play the “All About the Twin Cities” missions video.

Connie • *Because of the power of the Holy Spirit, the early church was incredibly generous and kind, for the most part. **Ananias and Sapphira lied about their gift to the church.** They needed the Holy Spirit to change their hearts so that they would do what is right. For the next few sessions, we’re going to learn about two cities in the U.S. that need more churches and Christians who will help the people living there know Jesus.*

Announcements (2 min.)

Jake • So, Connie, have you made any decisions about which coins you might be willing to part with at the CCCCC?

Connie • I think I’m getting closer to an answer. Actually, I’m thinking I might just give one of my coins away, instead of trading it for another coin. I have a lot and I’m sure there will be some new collectors at CCCCC who don’t have much of a collection yet and would love a new coin.

Jake • That would be very generous of you!

Make any announcements from your kids’ ministry.

Prayer (2 min.)

Connie • God, thank You for teaching us and giving us the power to be generous. You are generous with us. Help us to pass that love and kindness on to those around us. Amen.

Additional idea

cardstock paper
white crayons
watercolor paints

Transparency

Instruct the kids to write with the white crayon a key word from the story (generosity, greed, coin, church, etc.) on the cardstock. Invite them to try to read what other kids wrote on their papers. Then allow them to paint over the word with the watercolor paints. You may choose to use newsprint to protect surfaces and smocks or oversized T-shirts to protect clothing.

Jake • Wow! The paint really makes the words show up!

Connie • Isn’t that cool? Before we painted over the words, we couldn’t see them, but they were still there. This reminds me of our hearts. God knows what we are feeling, even when we try to hide it.

Jake • Ananias and Sapphira were not giving out of generosity, they were giving because they wanted people to praise them and think highly of them.

Connie • But God knew their hearts and their intentions, even when they were trying to hide them.

Jake • God knows everything about us.