

Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:1-6



New Testament 4
Part 1: Disciples of the Early Church

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 5:1-6; Matthew 12:36-37; Hebrews 4:12-13; Revelation 21:8; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:8-10

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Do not lie to one another" (Colossians 3:9).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another" (Ephesians 4:25).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["What Did Barnabas Do?"](#)
- ["God Hates a Lying Tongue"](#)
- ["I Will Always Tell the Truth"](#)
- ["Let's Put Away Lying"](#)
- ["Ananias and Sapphira"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [N.T. Disciples & Peter Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "N.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens" felt pieces

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

It is always wrong to lie. God expects me to always tell the truth.



LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week, we studied about when the Church first began. Where did the Church begin? When did it begin? Today, we are going to learn about two Christians and how they told a lie and were punished. The Bible teaches that lying is a sin, and we must always tell the truth and not lies!

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

How does it make you feel when a friend or someone in your class does something good and everybody praises him/her for it? Does it ever make you feel jealous? Do you ever think about doing something like they did so you'll get a lot of attention? Have you ever thought about lying about what you did, making what you did sound better so you'd get more praise? (Discuss this for a few minutes.) Today, we're going to learn about a couple who wanted people to praise them. So they lied about what they did. Lying is **always** wrong, and they were punished for it.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Many thousands of people were baptized on the day of Pentecost and during the feast days that followed. Many of those new Christians stayed a long time in Jerusalem, learning more every day from the apostles about Jesus and how they should live as His followers. The Christians ate together, prayed together, studied together, and worshipped together. And they shared what they had with one another, taking care of each other's needs.
2. Some of the Christians who lived in Jerusalem and in nearby areas sold their land and gave the money to the apostles to be used to help other Christians in need. They did it out of love for the Lord and love for their brothers and sisters in Christ. The Lord's Church is a family, and members of a family take care of one another.
3. A Christian named Joses (a Levite, from the island of Cyprus) sold some property that he owned and brought the money to the apostles. This was the first of many times that this special man would help and encourage others. In fact, he became known as Barnabas, which means "Son of Encouragement."
4. Acts 5 tells us about two other Christians (a man and his wife) in the Jerusalem church who decided to follow Barnabas' example and sell some property. Their names were Ananias and Sapphira. They sold their land, but, before taking the money to the apostles, decided they would lie about how much profit they had made. There was no reason for them to lie. No one was forcing them to sell their property in the first place, and they did not **have** to give away **all** their profit. Apparently they were jealous of the attention given to others who had sold land and wanted to receive some public recognition for their "generosity." They wanted to be "seen by men" (an attitude condemned by Jesus in Matthew 5:20 and 6:1-6).
5. When Ananias went to the apostles to give them the money, he told them that the money he was giving was **all** their profit from the sale of their land. But God helped Peter to know Ananias was lying. Peter told Ananias that he was not only lying to the apostles, but more importantly, he was lying to God. Instantly, Ananias fell down dead! Younger men who were there with the apostles carried out the body and buried it.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Capital Punishment and the Bible](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about what God thinks about capital punishment according to the Bible.

6. About three hours later, Sapphira came to the apostles looking for her husband. Peter asked her, “Tell me if you sold the land for such and such a price” (the price which Ananias told them). She said the same thing as Ananias because they had agreed to lie. Peter said that because she committed the same sin as her husband, she would suffer the same punishment, and immediately, Sapphira fell down dead, too. The younger men returned from burying Ananias just in time to find his wife and take her body out for burial as well. [They apparently owned no family tomb, or perhaps a family tomb was part of the property they had sold.]
7. Acts 5:11 says that “great fear came upon the whole church” when the news spread about this couple’s deaths. Their punishment was an example to all the Christians how important honesty is to God and how important our examples are to others. Ananias and Sapphira were not acting or thinking like Jesus would; they were only pretending to be like Jesus (being hypocrites). Doing what God wanted them to do was not as important to them as doing what **they** wanted to do.
8. When we lie, people will think we cannot be trusted because we aren’t always honest. When others know we lie sometimes, they cannot know when we are lying and when we are telling the truth at other times. So it makes them not trust us altogether. We can’t be a good example to others (we certainly aren’t acting like Jesus) if we tell lies.
9. When we lie to others, we also lie to God, and that makes Him very sad. God hates lies and has promised to punish liars as severely as murderers (Revelation 21:8). Jesus said that we will answer to God for every word we speak. He knows when we lie, even if no one else does. Sometimes telling the truth may mean we get into trouble, but we should never lie just to stay out of trouble.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Political Correctness and ‘Bashing’](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of the importance of confronting sin, even publically when necessary, and even when it is not “politically correct.”

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Ananias and Sapphira Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Explain how we are transparent to God. He knows everything, including what we are thinking. Pass out 3x5 white cards. Have each child write his name and draw a heart with a white crayon. Mix up the cards. Discuss how we can’t see which card is which, but God can. Take a marker and color over each of the cards. Each name will show up. Explain that God can see what we can’t.
- Truth Bowling: Set up a small “tower” of cups. Make up scenarios where a child might be tempted to lie (especially for personal gain). Have enough scenarios where there are two for each child. Ask each child in turn what he should do if he was in that scenario. If he gets the correct answer, allow him to roll a ball at the tower to try to knock it down. Rebuild the tower between rolls.

1st-2nd Graders:

- “[Ananias and Sapphira Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Ananias and Sapphira Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Explain how we are transparent to God. He knows everything, including what we are thinking. Pass out 3x5 white cards. Have each child write his name and draw a heart with a white crayon. Mix up the cards. Discuss how we can't see which card is which, but God can. Take a marker and color over each of the cards. Each name will show up. Explain that God can see what we can't.
- You can also use a white crayon to write the memory verse on white paper, then color over it with a marker and it will show up.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Help students use concordances to find more scriptures about lying.
- “[Ananias and Sapphira Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Ananias and Sapphira Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Explain how we are transparent to God. He knows everything, including what we are thinking. Pass out 3x5 white cards. Have each child write his name and draw a heart with a white crayon. Mix up the cards. Discuss how we can't see which card is which, but God can. Take a marker and color over each of the cards. Each name will show up. Explain that God can see what we can't.
- Can also use a white crayon to write the memory verse on white paper, then color over it with a marker and it will show up.
- Have the children read the following:
 - The following *Discovery* magazine articles on lying: [March, 2004](#) (“The Trouble with Lying”) and [May, 2009](#) (the entire issue)
 - *Piglet Tells the Truth*, by Mary Manz Simon, Standard Publishing

FINGERPLAYS:

“WHAT DID BARNABAS DO?”

There goes Barnabas, (walk fingers away)
To sell his land, to buy food for the poor. (hold palms open)
Here comes Barnabas, (walk fingers back)
With the money, (cup hands as if holding coins)
To put at the apostles' feet. (pretend to empty cupped hands)

Ananias and Sapphira went to sell their land. (walk fingers away)
They wanted to show off. (put fingers to chest as if to show off)
They came back, (walk fingers back)
With only some of the money. (pretend to divide money)
They lied to God, (point to mouth, then shake finger)
And God was sad. (make sad face).

POEM:

“GOD HATES A LYING TONGUE”

Author: Lora Laycook
(Illustrate with pictures)

I know God hates a lying tongue, and I should honest be.
I'll tell the truth to all my friends and happy they will be.
I know that God will hear my prayer;
He'll make me brave and strong.
He'll help me say the things I should,
And keep me from doing wrong.

SONGS:

“I WILL ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Rhonda Thompson
(Tune: “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

I will tell the truth, every single day.
When I'm at home or I'm at school, even when I play.

Jesus knows about, every word I say,
I won't use words that make Him sad or hurt my friends today.

“LET'S PUT AWAY LYING” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Rhonda Thompson
(Tune: “On Top of Old Smokey”)

Let's put away lying, and speak only the truth,
'Cause if we love Jesus, our words are the proof.

If we are not honest, telling lies “big” and “small,
We become like the devil, the worst liar of all.

“ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Rhonda Thompson
(Tune: “Clementine”)

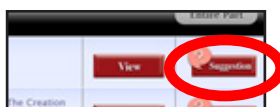
Ananias and Sapphira chose to sell some land they owned.
But they lied to the apostles, and they lied to God above.

Be truthful to one another; keep your tongue from speaking lies.
Never lie when you're in trouble. Oh, be careful what you say!

Is it ever, is it ever, okay for me to lie?
No, it's never, never ever, okay for me to lie.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

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INTRODUCTION:

- [N.T. 4 Bible Fact Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Remind the children that Jesus called the devil “the father of lies” (John 8:44) because he was the first liar. He told Eve that she would not die by eating the forbidden fruit. He encouraged Eve to disobey God (to sin) and then to try to escape the consequences. He has been doing the same thing to people ever since.
3. Discuss briefly the numerous Bible characters who lied and the consequences of their lies. Examples:
 - Laban (Genesis 29:1-30). His lies caused a terrible division in the family of Jacob.
 - Old prophet who lied to a younger prophet, convincing him to disobey God (1 Kings 13:7-24). God caused a lion to kill the younger prophet for disobeying Him.
 - Jewish leaders told Roman guards to lie about Jesus’ body “disappearing” (Matthew 28:11-15). Many Jews believed that lie for a long time.
 - Peter lied three times about knowing Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75). He was terribly sad about his lies and would never forget them. (1 Peter 2:1).
 - Jacob lied to his father Isaac, saying he was Esau (Genesis 27). The descendants of the two brothers were at war for centuries.
 - Laban lied to Jacob, giving him Leah as wife instead of Rachel (Genesis 29). Jacob had to work for Laban 14 years in all to have Rachel.
4. Jacob’s 10 sons led him to believe that Joseph was dead, and Jacob mourned for Joseph for many years and never went to rescue him, not knowing he was alive (Genesis 37). This can lead into a discussion that even when we don’t actually **tell** a lie, if we let someone believe what is untrue, it can be just as bad as lying (e.g., Abraham and Abimelech; Genesis 20).

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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