



LESSON 5

ACTS 4:32 - 5:16

1. What verse or truth from our study of **Acts 4:5-31** challenged your way of thinking and how did the **Lord** use it in your life this week?

2. From **Acts 4:32-5:16**, what strikes you about how this community of believers is living, and what they are dealing with in their midst? What warms your heart about an experience you have had being part of a community, whether within or outside the church?

3. What are the marks (words and actions) of the Spirit-filled community from **Acts 4:32-35** (you can also refer back to **Acts 2:42-47**) and how do you think those outside the community explained what they saw and heard?

4. a) From **Acts 5:1-6**, how did Ananias' conduct differ from Joseph's in **Acts 4:36-37** and how do you explain Ananias' conduct in light of the other believers who were "one in heart and mind" (**4:32-35**)?
- b) What is noteworthy about what Peter says or his handling of the situation, and of what did Peter accuse Ananias?
5. Sapphira's story is found in **V7-10**. Describe her role in the property sale (look back to **V2**). What wrong motivations (or sin) do you see in what she did or said?
6. Skim **Acts 5:1-11** again.
- a) What were the consequences (both physical and spiritual) for Ananias and Sapphira? How did this affect the believing community and others?
- b) Why do you think it was critical to confront their sin as the early church was being established and as they were learning to trust the **Holy Spirit**?

7. *Challenge:* The consequences to Ananias and Sapphira are very severe. What questions or emotions surface for you as you try to understand this passage? See **Luke 12:21** and **16:13** or share other Scripture that you find helpful.
8. This passage convicts us about the seriousness of sin within the church and about the importance of being truthful before **God** and other believers. How do you think sin impacts the community of believers today and its ability to proclaim the gospel?
9. From **Acts 5:12-16**, what stands out to you in the details of the dramatic things the apostles were doing and the varied reactions to the apostles at that time in church history?

10. REFLECT ON THE WORDS OF JESUS

Ananias and Sapphira remind us that **God** searches hearts and minds, and desires purity in His church. As **Jesus** said to the church in Thyatira, “**Then all the churches will know that I am He who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.**” **Revelation 2:23**. Reflect on what this means for you and where He might be calling the church to address sin among believers.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST