

Morning Overview

Lesson: Ananias and Sapphira

Today's story is one of the most difficult and perplexing stories in Scripture. We learn about Ananias and Sapphira, their scheme and their greediness with the Lord, and ultimately God's judgement. This story might leave us all with more questions than answers. Ultimately, we must come to a point where God's judgment was justified for no other reason than it is His to dispense. The couple acted sinfully, and judgment for sin is death.

NB: Please look to the Acts trifold to help explain how the Holy Spirit grew the Church. Each week the lesson will contain a small part from previous week's lesson to help kids remember previous stories.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Christians at this time had come together to care for one another; to have all things in common.
- A couple, Ananias and Sapphira, owned some land and decided to sell it.
- They secretly decided to keep part of the profit for themselves and to give some to the church.
- Their greediness in this act was judged by God. Peter uncovers their secret with Ananias first.
- Ananias dies first. Then three hours later Sapphira dies.
- The church is filled with fear and awe at what is happening.

Scripture: Acts 5:1-11

Scripture Memory for September: Acts 2:32 ESV

This Jesus God raised up, (*hands start on the ground and then stretch above your head*)
and of that we all are witnesses. (*point to your eyes ... talk about being an "eye witness"*)

Opening Activity: YOU LIE, YOU DIE!

1. On the sly, assign one teacher to act as the Holy Spirit during the game. Don't let on that this teacher will actually help the children as they try to guess. See if they can figure it out by hand signals and motioning with your eyes. For the younger ones, you may go and whisper clues in their ear to let them know you are helping them if they don't read your signals.
2. Instruct everyone to sit in a circle with their hands behind their backs.
3. Tell them you are going to give everyone one coin except for two people who will get two coins. No one will know who.
4. Tell them that the students with two coins are Ananias and Sapphira and are to fall dead if someone guesses they have two coins.
5. Tell the ones who have two to try to keep it a secret and don't give away that they have two coins.
6. Hand out the coins, making sure to give two children two coins.
7. Have them stand up in a circle and sing "Jesus Loves Me" while you take the offering.
8. Now you circle around with an offering bucket, letting them drop in ONE coin then place their hands back behind their backs.
9. After everyone has made an offering, ask the children one at a time to try to pick out the two students who had two coins.
10. Ananias and Sapphira will fall down dead when someone guesses correctly.
11. Play as many times as you like before making your magnet craft.
12. Teach them to let this simple coin magnet remind that, "YOU LIE, YOU DIE!"

At the end of the opening activity, **turn their coin into a magnet** by simply placing a magnet strip on the coin.

Craft: Learning to Storyboard

Divide the students up among your 2-4 teachers for this craft/activity. In each of your small groups.

1. Teach or review the lesson, using the story cards.
2. Give each child a set of their own story cards.
3. Let each child lay their cards out in order by number on the back.
4. As you review the lesson again, have them turn over the card that corresponds with that part of the story as you go, just as you did at the beginning.
5. Now let them mix up their cards and see how quickly they can put them back in order either by number or picture.
6. Encourage them to tell you the story using their cards one on one or one to a small group.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet.

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, what's this? [Show coin and allow for answers] In our story today we have a couple who decided to lie to God and keep something for themselves. Let's find out more about our story today...

All Things in Common

The Bible tells us the apostles were doing many miracles and signs. And everyone was in amazement of God. All the believers that heard Peter's sermon stayed together. **They shared everything! They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those people who needed it.** The believers met together in the Temple every day. They all had the same purpose. They shared meals in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God, and all people liked them. More and more people were being saved every day; the Lord was adding those people to the group of believers.

Ananias and Sapphira

A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira owned some land and decided to sell it. Ananias and Sapphira took the money and counted it. They were happy to have the money! Ananias knew he should probably give some of it away. So, he decided that he would give some of the money to the apostles and the church, but he would keep the rest. No one knew Ananias' plan except for his wife Sapphira. She agreed that they should give some money away but keep the rest. It was their big secret.

So, Ananias took the money and gave it to the apostles. Peter looked at the money and then said, "Ananias, why did you let Satan rule your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit." Even though Ananias and Sapphira thought it was a secret, God knew exactly what they had done. The Holy Spirit had given Peter the ability to know this secret. What Ananias and Sapphira had done was a selfish thing.

“Why did you keep part of the money you received for the land for yourself?” Ananias knew Peter was telling the truth. Peter went on to say that before Ananias sold the land it belonged to him, and after he sold it the money was all his. Peter told Ananias, “You could have used the money any way you wanted.” Ananias could have kept it all to himself and not shared. But sharing only some of it with the apostles and the church, Ananias had lied to God. The Bible tells us that when Peter said this to Ananias, Ananias fell down and died.

Seeing this happen, 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.

The Bible goes on to tell us that about three hours later his wife came in. Sapphira did not know what had happened to Ananias. She had not seen him for a while. Peter approached Sapphira and said to her, “Tell me how much money you got for your field. Was it this much?” Peter showed Sapphira the money Ananias had given him.

Sapphira answered, “Yes, that was the price.” Sapphira had lied. She and Ananias had received more money than that!

Peter was angry. He was angry because how could anyone keep anything from God? Why would anyone do that? Ananias and Sapphira were being disobedient to the Holy Spirit. Peter told Sapphira what happened to Ananias. As she heard the words, Sapphira fell down and died. The Bible tells us the same young men who buried Ananias came in and saw that she was dead. They carried Sapphira out and buried her beside her husband.

The Bible tells us the whole church and all the others who heard about these things were filled with fear. People had seen mighty and powerful things happening, and God was showing everyone who he truly was. Remember that God was able to raise Jesus from the dead, God was able to help the Apostles speak to a lot of different people in their own languages, and God was able to make a crippled man walk. We have a strong and mighty God!

Questions for Review

- What were the early believers sharing?
- Who sold the land?
- What did they decide to do with the money?
- What did Peter say to Ananias?
- What happened to Ananias?
- What did Peter say to Sapphira?
- What happened to Sapphira?