

STUDY GUIDE

MAY 22, 2022

ACTS | THE BIG LIE: KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

ACTS 4:32-5:11

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below.

WORK AHEAD | HOW CAN I COME PREPARED FOR MY GROUP?

1. Read Acts 4:32-5:11.
2. Look over your message notes. What was surprising or insightful? What questions were raised?
3. If time allows, look ahead at the "Digging In" section and think through how you would contribute to your group discussion.

FOR STARTERS | THOUGHTS TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE

1. How well does your group know you? Take turns telling everyone two true things about yourself and one lie. Can they guess which one is untrue?

DIGGING IN | DISCOVERING WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURE

Woah...this story is intense.

The story of Ananias and Sapphira is a tough one to wrap our modern, western minds around. Read Acts 4:32-5:11 together. If someone has a good study Bible, share any notes that you find helpful.

1. Parallel stories about the consequences of betraying God can be found in Joshua 7 and Matthew 27:3-10. What similarities do you observe between these two stories? Take your time on this one, it's a doozy.
2. Read Acts 5:11. What does it look like for us to respond to the lesson about lying and hypocrisy today?

What to do when there's sin in the camp.

There's a lot in the Bible about how Christians need to be on guard for sin in the community. Read Matthew 18:6-9, 15-17, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Galatians 6:1-6 and James 5:19-20.

1. According to these passages, should we expect the church to be perfect? What should we expect?
2. According to the passages above, what are a few principles for Christians for when we unintentionally or intentionally hurt, offend or sin against God and one another?
3. Do you know anyone who has walked away from the church because they couldn't deal with the drama? Take a moment to lift them up before God in prayer.

BRINGING IT HOME | APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Personal Reflection

Where are you tempted to let yourself off easily in regards to your personal sin? How does this story help you see the gravity of compromise?

Group Application

This story reminds us of the importance of a Christ-centered community of faith. Encourage one another for the specific ways you've seen their faithfulness, integrity and vulnerability this year.

DIGGING DEEPER | IDEAS TO KEEP GROWING DURING THE WEEK

1. This week, spend some time reflecting on Matthew 5:23-24. Pray and ask God to shine His light on anything that might be getting in the way of your relationships with another believer.
2. **NOTE:** After May 29, our Study Guide team will be taking a break for the summer. This is a great time to talk through your plan to stay connected over the new couple of months. Please email [Bev](#) or [Ryan](#) if you're interested in some excellent small group curriculum.