



ACTS: LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 4:36–5:1–11

Week of August 20, 2023

Start at 9:50–10:00

Belong: *Use 5–10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Ask the question[s] below:

- **When was a time you kept a gift that you had planned to give away?**
 - **How do you know when someone is lying to you?**
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10:00–10:05

Believe: *Use 5 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have a group member read **Acts 4:36–5:11** aloud.

- Have the class summarize this section in 1–2 sentences.
 - What is your first reaction to these verses?
 - Does the story of Ananias and Sapphira challenge you?
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10:05–10:15

Build: *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

Last week, we discussed what "radical generosity" looked like in the early church. Specifically, we discussed Barnabas. We stated that His heart, his humility and his obedience to the gospel was THE example in the early church. We read Scripture which showed that he was not only generous with what he owned, but also with his encouragement and obedience to God.

Luke really reveals this about Barnabas in **Acts 4:36–37**.

36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

For all of the radical generosity we saw last week, this week we begin to see the faults of the early church. Luke is not writing a fairy tale, where blue birds are always chirping. He is providing us a look behind the curtain of the early church – warts and all. Our text this week also reveals that every gospel-preaching church will face opposition – sometimes from the inside.

What does it mean to fear God?

- **And, how does our fear of God help us to be faithful to Him?**

10:15-10:35

Become: Use about 20 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?

What did Ananias and Sapphira intentionally do wrong?

- Why did God cause Ananias and Sapphira to “breath their last” at that point in the early church’s history?

Who can define “church discipline”? [Church discipline is everything the church does to help its members pursue holiness and fight sin.]

- Did Ananias and Sapphira have an opportunity to pursue holiness and fight sin?
- Is church discipline necessary in the church? **Why or Why not?**

Wrestle with this quote:

- **“Church discipline is not about retribution or enacting justice. It’s redemptive.” – Jonathan Leeman**

What does this passage teach us about God’s grace and mercy?

- What does this passage teach us about us being responsible for our sin and the need for repentance?

Within a church, if there was **open** unrepentant sin, how would you expect the church, the pastors and the elders to address the sin?

10:35/ – Class ends at 10:45

Begin: Use the last 10 minutes for prayer. It’s important that we not only hear and discuss God’s Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)

How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: Acts 4 & 5: Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: Acts 4 & 5: Check out the QR code to learn more.

