



UNIT 30 | SESSION 4

## PETER CONFRONTED SIN

ACTS 4-5

### KEY PASSAGE:

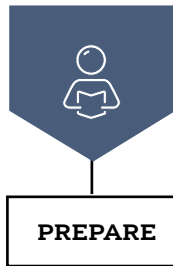
Romans 10:14

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus? We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe the good news.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look generous, but they were greedy and chose to lie. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts to want to share with those in need. Jesus generously gave all He had so we can share in His riches and have forgiveness and eternal life.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

One of Scripture's most prominent warnings against false motives comes to us in Acts 5: the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Amid the church's unity and generosity in the previous chapter, the husband and wife's scheme stands in stark contrast. Though this couple sought to appear generous before others, the Holy Spirit unveiled their treachery so that the church could remain on mission for the Lord.

Why did the church members lay their money at the feet of the apostles? What was the Holy Spirit's role in the downfalls of Ananias and Sapphira?

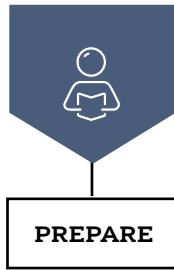
The last section of Acts 4 recounted the oneness of the early church, as they lived in fellowship and in concern for one another. To lay something at another person's feet signified a trust in that person's responsibility over what had been given. We read that the early church members' desire was for the apostles to distribute their proceeds where they would be most beneficial for others. Their generosity was honoring to God and fulfilled the commands of Deuteronomy 15. Ultimately, it was the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the early church that transformed their hearts to give generously and joyfully to the Lord.

On the other hand, Ananias and Sapphira tried to appear like they had unselfish virtues, yet they held fast to greedy motives. While others obeyed the Holy Spirit's power at work, Ananias and Sapphira allowed the desires of their flesh to take precedence over the good works God prepared for them. They lied and therefore grieved the Holy Spirit by claiming to give all they had. Their actions did not match the motives they proclaimed, a danger that many in the church can fall prey to even today.

As you prepare to teach this passage to kids, be sure to emphasize the Christlike love at work in the life of the early church. Though greed and self-gain seemed too big a temptation for Ananias and Sapphira, we can lead lives of obedience to the Holy Spirit, recognizing the extravagance and sacrificial love of Christ that transforms our hearts to live on mission for Him.

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

**Ananias: a Christian in the early church at Jerusalem who—along with his wife, Sapphira—lied about money given to the church. Ananias and Sapphira both died as a result.**



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- ☐ “Collect the Coins” activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ coins

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ wood building blocks, 5 per kid



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

#### Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “Peter Confronted Sin” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ coins (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 30, Session 4” questions from kids video

#### Missions Moment

- ☐ “White Family Photo” printable

#### Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “How, Then (Romans 10:14)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ corn tortillas, 1 per kid
- ☐ cooked chicken
- ☐ cooked rice
- ☐ cooked beans
- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ napkins
- ☐ serving spoons or tongs

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)
- ☐ sticky notes, 8–10



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Have you ever given to someone in need? When? What did you give them? How did you feel after you gave to them?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Collect the Coins” on the activity page.

**SAY** “Great job finding the hidden coins! Do you think we can hide anything from God? [Allow responses.] No, He knows all. Today, we will learn how two people lied and tried to hide their sin.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: HOW MUCH?



Place any amount of change in your pocket. Tell kids you have money in your pocket and ask them to take turns guessing how much you have. After they have all guessed, count the money with them. Ask them if it is a large or small amount of money. Ask them if giving away that amount of money would honor God.

**SAY** “You all had to guess how much money was in my pocket. But God already knew! He knows all things. And even though the amount of money was not as much as some people might have, God does not measure our generosity by the amount of money we give to help others. He wants us to share what we have in faith and love for Him. Today, we will learn about two people who wanted others to think they were generous but kept some money for themselves. They thought they could hide their sin from God. Let’s get ready to learn more from our Bible story.”

#### ☐ OPTION 2: WORKING TOGETHER

Distribute five wooden blocks to each kid. Prompt kids to build the highest tower they can with the blocks they were given. Then gather the kids into groups of three and lead them to build a tower again. Compare the height of towers. Lastly, challenge the kids to all work together to build a tower.

**SAY** “When were you able to build the tallest tower? [Allow responses.] The tower was the tallest when you all worked together. As followers of Jesus, God calls us to be generous with what He has given us. When we work together and are generous, we can do so much more. Everyone gets to participate in generosity! Today, we will learn how many believers were generous and gave money from hearts that loved God. But we will also learn how two people chose to be greedy instead.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**






## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### INTRODUCE the Bible Story

#### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

 Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “Hi, kids! My name is [your name]. I am so thankful to be here with you all today and read a story from God’s Word together. When we read the Bible, one thing we learn about God is that He is generous. This means that God loves to share what is His and give good gifts. God is so generous that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, so people can be saved. And when we become a Christian, we grow to look like Jesus and want to be generous like Him!

Let’s take out our Bibles and learn more about how we can be generous like God. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will be reading in the book of Acts as we learn about the generosity of the early church and how Peter recognized that some people wanted to look like they were generous but really weren’t.”


*Worship*

*\* Send Me out  
\* Build My Life*

*\* offering*

#### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

**SAY** “As we think about being generous and sharing what we have, we can also remember that it is generous to share the good news of Jesus with others. We don’t want to be quiet about how God has made a way for people to be saved and have life with Him forever.

 Let’s review our big picture question and answer. Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus? [Allow responses.] We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe the good news. Everyone needs to hear the good news! We need to know that we do not have to hide from God. He already knows our sin and has made the way for us to be forgiven through faith in Jesus. It’s such good news how could we keep it to ourselves?”

*\**

#### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “As Peter, John, and the other apostles continued to share the gospel with others, more and more people believed in Jesus. Last week, we learned that not even the religious leaders could stop Peter and John from sharing about Jesus. The church began to grow through the power of the Holy Spirit. In our Bible story, we’ll learn how the Holy Spirit changed people’s hearts, and the people wanted to be generous and share what they had with others.”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story



#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 4–5. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Peter Confronted Sin.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### PETER CONFRONTED SIN

“The early church was growing. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the apostles were telling people that Jesus had been raised from the dead. **A large group of believers met together in Jerusalem. They shared everything they had. If someone had more than he needed, he gladly gave it away so everyone had what he needed.**

**One man, Barnabas, sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. The apostles used the money to help people in need.** Everyone who had land or houses did the same. **Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, sold some land and pretended to give all of the money to the apostles, but they kept some of it for themselves.**

**When Ananias brought the money to the apostles, Peter asked him, “Why are you lying to the Holy Spirit? You could have been honest about what you did with the money, but instead you lied—not to us, but to God.” When Ananias heard this, he fell down, died, and was buried.** Everyone who heard about this was filled with fear.

**About three hours later, Sapphira came to the apostles. She did not know what had happened to her husband. Peter asked her, “Is this all the money you got for the land?”**

**“Yes,” she said. “That’s all of it.”**

**Peter said, “Why did you and your husband agree to test the Lord?” Then Sapphira fell dead too. Great fear came on everyone in the church and all who heard about these things.**

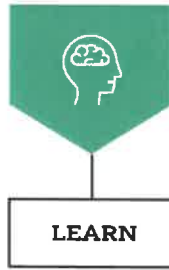
Christ Connection: Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look generous, but they were greedy and chose to lie. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts to want to share with those in need. Jesus generously gave all He had so we can share in His riches and have forgiveness and eternal life.

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Build anticipation:** Build the kids’ anticipation by intentionally pausing at important parts of the story.

**Use money:** Gather some coins and use them as props in the story. Place some coins on the table when you talk about the people giving generously. Then place some coins in your pocket when you tell how Ananias and Sapphira kept some of the money for themselves.





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** The apostles were sharing the gospel and more people were believing in Jesus. The church in Jerusalem was growing. As they met together, they knew who had a need. Not only did they know about each other's needs, they also shared what they had. Why do you think they did that? **[Allow responses.]** The believers had been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit changed their hearts to be generous like God. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit also reminded them of the truth that God will take care of all their needs. The new believers were trusting God and loving one another just as Jesus told them to!

Who did Ananias and Sapphira lie to? **[Allow responses.]** They not only lied to Peter and the church, but they also lied to God. They were not honest about how much money they gave. They wanted other people to think they were generous and had given all their money. Could they hide their sin from God? **[Allow responses.]** No, God knew they did not give all their money. But it was not how much they gave that was sinful. They sinned because they lied to God. Their hearts were greedy and by lying they showed they loved themselves more than God.

God's generosity is not like Ananias or Sapphira. He gave us Jesus, and through Jesus He gives us full forgiveness of all our sins. God does not hold back His generosity from us. When we give, it's a way of showing the gospel to those around us. We can give freely because we trust God shares His gifts with us.

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look generous, but they were greedy and chose to lie. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts to want to share with those in need. Jesus generously gave all He had so we can share in His riches and have forgiveness and eternal life.

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 30, Session 4" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What does it mean to lie to the Holy Spirit?
2. Jesus has been generous to us. How can we show generosity to others?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the "White Family Photo" as you share about the missionaries.

**SAY** The White family has been serving in Antigua, Guatemala, since 2006. During this time, they had formed friendships with many believers. Some of the Christians live in villages outside the city. The White family visits these believers and seeks to encourage them to stay strong in their faith. They do not want the Christians to get discouraged, but to keep trusting in God. They encourage the local believers to be bold in telling others about Jesus.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Share how the White family's primary reason for being in Guatemala is to tell others about Jesus and start new churches. Tell kids that the White family invites Christians from around the world to partner with them in reaching the people of Guatemala for Jesus. Share how when other Christians come to Guatemala, they also help meet the people's needs and provide more opportunities for people to hear the gospel. Close in prayer, asking God to encourage the believers in Guatemala and help them boldly speak the gospel so more people can hear about Jesus and believe. Thank God for His generosity in sending other Christians to help the White family in Guatemala.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Romans 10:14 together.

**SAY** “Our key passage reminds us that people can only believe in Jesus if they have heard the gospel. We can share the gospel with everyone so they have an opportunity to believe.”

Lead kids to repeat the key passage after you using various voices or changes in volume. For example, kids could say the key passage using a robotic voice or a high-pitched voice. Repeat as time allows.

Lead kids to sing “How, Then (Romans 10:14).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

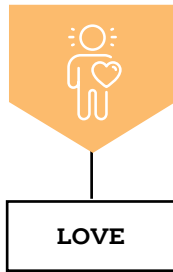
Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “Father, we learn generosity from You. Thank You for giving Your Son, Jesus, so we can be saved. Please help us grow in our love for You and our generosity. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God by Applying the Story

#### **1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)**

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Acts 4. Remind kids that Acts is in the New Testament and teaches us about how the gospel spread to different parts of the world. Share that Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 are important and help us understand how the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to share the gospel in many parts of the world.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 4:35-37 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud. Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H4) on the New Testament Israel Map.

**SAY** “ Luke, the writer of Acts, said that Barnabas sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. He gave with honesty and is nicknamed the ‘son of encouragement.’ Barnabas had a changed heart that wanted to be generous. Later in Acts, Paul and Barnabas became partners in sharing the gospel in other parts of the world. They were both changed by the Holy Spirit and wanted others to know the good news of Jesus.

Like Barnabas, we can have hearts that are changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. God can help us want to give what we can to those in need, and He can help us share the best gift we have—the good news of the gospel! ”

#### **2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)**

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “ How has Jesus given us more than we need? How is He generous? ”

Remind kids that Jesus gave His life on the cross so we can be forgiven of our sin. Discuss that Jesus gives us His righteousness, forgiveness, and eternal life. Share how that through Jesus, we become heirs of all that is His.

**SAY** “ What should we do if we don't feel like sharing what we have with others? ”

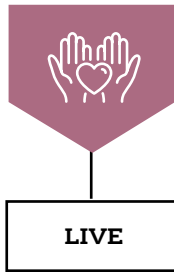
Discuss how we can pray and ask God to change our hearts so that we want to share and give to others. Tell kids that we can repent of any sin that may be keeping us from wanting to be generous. Encourage kids to depend on the Holy Spirit to help them have generous hearts.

**SAY** “ Would it be better to give lots of money but only so people think you're great? Or give what you can with a heart that loves God? Explain. ”

Remind kids that it's not how much we give that is important, but that God wants us to give because we want to honor Him. Tell kids that God knows our hearts and whether we give because we love Him or want others to think we're great. Discuss how the gospel reminds us that Jesus gave His life to serve us and that He didn't exalt Himself.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** the Mission

#### **1 ACTIVITY CHOICE** (10 minutes)

##### ☐ **OPTION 1: SERVE GENEROUSLY**



Before the session, gather corn tortillas, cooked chicken, cooked rice, and cooked beans. Place the food on a table and include serving spoons or tongs. Tell kids that people in Antigua, Guatemala eat many delicious foods including beans, chicken, beef, and fruits like papaya. Share that tortillas are a regular part of their diet.

Choose several kids to help serve the food to the rest of the group. Provide kids with plates and napkins. Then once those kids have received their food, choose some from that group to serve those who do not yet have food. Once all kids have eaten, choose other kids to help clean up and throw away the plates and napkins.

**SAY** “ You all were very generous in helping to serve one another! The White family serves the people of Guatemala by meeting needs and telling them about Jesus. We can find ways to be generous with others as well and share the gospel with them. ”

##### ☐ **OPTION 2: TREASURE HUNT**



Before the session, write the words of the big picture answer on 8–10 sticky notes and hide them around the room. Form kids into three or four teams. Create a clue for each sticky note that kids will use to seek out their “treasure.” For example, you might choose to hide a sticky note under a chair and use the clue “The sticky note can be found where you sit.” After all the sticky notes have been found, read the big picture answer aloud. Remind kids that the greatest treasure we can have is to know and believe in Jesus. Consider awarding kids with candy for their treasure seeking efforts.

**SAY** “ Jesus gave His life so that we can be saved from our sin. **We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe the good news.** We don’t want to keep this good news to ourselves. Instead, God commands us to share it with others so they can have the greatest treasure—life with Jesus! ”

#### **2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER** (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.