



Session #4

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)

Breaking the Ice:

Name one or more of your favorite “villains” from film or literature. Why are they your favorite?

Exploration:

Read: [Acts 4:32-37](#)

How would you describe what is going on in the church at Jerusalem?

What lessons can you identify from their actions? Why does Barnabas’ gift in verses 36-37 stand out?

Read: [Acts 5:1-11](#)

How did the actions of many in chapter four set up this couple’s decision in chapter five?

List at least three possible motivations that caused them to hold back some money while still seeking to appear as if all of the proceeds were brought to Peter?

How did their actions interrupt the Spirit that was present in the church? Talk about how the actions of a few can affect many.

Read: Verse 3

What “image” were they trying to project? How does living to maintain an image ultimately harm us?

This couple conspired to lie- what if one of them would have stood up for the truth? How does your spouse or others help you remain honest?

How does honesty enhance a relationship?

What are some steps you can suggest to take in order to be more transparent with God and others?

Does God’s punishment seem severe in this passage? If it were not, would the response seen in verse 11 have been the same? Would we be talking about it tonight?

Bringing it Home

Set as a goal to prayerfully and honestly examine your motives as far as impressing others goes. Ask God for continued help to overcome any pockets of selfishness you discover.

Bottom Line

God wants you to use your resources for and be motivated by His glory.