

## WITH PRIVILEGE COMES RESPONSIBILITY

Acts 4:32-5:11

### INTRODUCTION

Up to this point in the Book of Acts, God has blessed the fledgling Church with the power of his Spirit. The Apostles were boldly preaching the Word of God, people were getting saved, and the priorities of the believers became serving other people. Then, Satan found a foothold into what God was doing. In spite of the miraculous works and manifestations of His presence and power— a man and his wife failed to steward their heart towards the fear of God. Such high-handed rebellion could not be ignored. God had to discipline them for the sake of the movement. This week, discover how the privilege of experiencing God's favor comes with the responsibility of maintaining a healthy respect for his holiness.

### OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 4:32-5:11 and then answering the following questions:

1. What words or phrases in 4:31-35 describe the attitude and actions of the believers towards one other?
2. What words or phrases in 4:32-35 describe what God was doing among all the people?
3. What multiple words or phrases does Peter use to describe the offense Ananias and Sapphira committed (5:1-9)?



Horne, Charles, and Julius Bewer. *The Bible and Its Story: Acts–Epistles, Apostles to Revelation*. Vol. 10. New York, NY: Francis R. Niglutsch, 1910.

4. What contrasts do you see between 4:32 and 5:4?
5. What effect did this event have on those who witnessed or heard about the incident (5:5, 11)?

### **INTERPRETATION** *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

6. In what way does what God did in 4:29-31 explain why he did what he did in 4:32-35?
7. Read 1 Chronicles 13:1-14. What similarities do you find in this OT story and Acts 4:32-5:11?
8. Compare 4:32 -5:11 with Leviticus 10:1-7. What do these verses tell us about the nature of God?
9. Read Hebrews 10:26-39 and 1 John 5:14-21. Make a list of the multiple warnings made to believers in these verses. How do they apply to what happened to Ananias and Sapphira?
10. What other passages in the Bible can you think of that have relevance to this passage?

## **APPLICATION** *Why does it MATTER?*

Now that you have discerned what the passage means, how does it apply to your life?

11. Who is responsible for sin gaining entry into the life of the church- Satan or man? Explain.
12. Why do suppose God acted with such severity? What was at stake?
13. Do you think that God acts with the same severity today? Why or why not?
14. In what ways are the sins described in this passage manifested in our day?

## **TAKE AWAY** *How does this change me?*

15. What does this passage reveal about God?
16. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
17. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?

**Have your kids do the word find puzzle on the next page or read to them Acts 4:32-5:11. Use the following questions to have a discussion about how God knows our secret desires and actions.**

1. What happened to Ananias and Sapphira when they lied about the money they gave to the church? (Acts 5:5, 10)

Possible answer: They both fell down and died when they lied to God and the church.

2. Why do you think God considered lying such a serious sin for Ananias and Sapphira? (Acts 5:4)

Possible answer: Lying to God and the church showed that Ananias and Sapphira were not respectful of God's power and holiness in spite of his obvious miracles and favor among the people.

3. How can we show honesty in our words and actions, like Barnabas did when he sold his land and gave all the money to the church? (Acts 4:37)

Possible answers: Honesty comes from a heart that cares about people and God. Only God can motivate us to care about these things when we seek to yield to his spirit.

4. Why is it important to be careful about what we say and do, especially when we're at church or with other believers? (Acts 5:4)

Possible answers: It's important because God sees everything we do, and lying or being deceitful hurts our relationship with Him and others.

5. How can we learn to trust God with everything, knowing that He sees everything we do and will help us do what is right? (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Possible answers: We can learn to trust God by praying and asking Him for help, reading His Word (the Bible), and obeying His commands.

**Take some time to listen to your child's answer and then lead them in a prayer that calls upon God to help them yield to him and depend on his strength to be bold for him.**

# WORD FIND

Acts 4:32-5:11

H E A R T L T A G A S C  
E H S K P A T H E N F A  
A I K G A N H O I M P M  
Y H E A R D I I W I F E  
F F D C T A N A N I A S  
P E R S O N G P E T E R  
A A O L Y B R O U G H T  
B R P O S S E S S E D L  
L C P R C K A T O F I A  
K A E D T K T L L E T I  
U R D B U R I E D E A D  
P R O C E E D S A T K M  
C Y N R F O I Y B A C K

Now the entire group of those who believed were of one **heart** and mind, and no one claimed that any of his **possessions** was his own, but instead they held everything in common. With **great** power the **apostles** were giving testimony to the resurrection of the **Lord** Jesus, and **great** grace was on all of them. For there was not a needy **person** among them because all those who owned **lands** or houses **sold** them, **brought** the **proceeds** of what was **sold**, and **laid** them at the **apostles' feet**. This was **then** distributed to each **person** as any had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the **apostles** called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), **sold** a field he owned, **brought** the money, and **laid** it at the **apostles' feet**. But a man named **Ananias**, with his **wife** Sapphira, **sold** a piece of property. However, he kept **back part** of the **proceeds** with his **wife's** knowledge, and **brought** a portion of it and **laid** it at the **apostles' feet**. "**Ananias**," **Peter** asked, "why has Satan filled your **heart** to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep **back part** of the **proceeds** of the **land**? Wasn't it yours while you **possessed** it? And after it was **sold**, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this **thing** in your **heart**? You have not lied to people but to God." When he **heard** these words, **Ananias dropped dead**, and a **great fear** came on all who **heard**. The young men got up, wrapped his body, **carried** him out, and **buried** him. About three hours later, his **wife** came in, not knowing what had happened. "Tell me," **Peter** asked her, "did you sell the **land** for this price?" "Yes," she said, "for that price." **Then Peter** said to her, "Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the **Lord**? Look, the **feet** of those who have **buried** your husband are at the door, and they will **carry** you out." Instantly she **dropped dead** at his **feet**. When the young men **came** in, they found her **dead**, **carried** her out, and **buried** her beside her husband. **Then great fear** came on the whole church and on all who **heard** these **things**.