

# *Family Worship*

## *The Holy Spirit in The Early Church*

*27.09.2020*

# *Opening Prayer*

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for our family.

And thank you for the privilege of coming together for worship.

Help us to understand Your Word and obey it with a joyful heart.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

# *Worthy is the Lamb // Agnus Dei*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiohGVxzDPc>



# *Catechism Time!*

Bible truths for teaching children

# Question 18

**Q:** Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?

**A:** No, God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them both in this life, and in the life to come.

**Let's remind ourselves:**

God takes our sin seriously (while we may not) !

**Bible verse (Ephesians 5:5-6)**

You can be sure of this: No one who engages in sexual sin, or does evil things, or is greedy will have a place in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Anyone who is greedy is serving a false god (that is, idolatry). Do not let anyone fool you by telling you things that are not true. These things will bring God's anger on those who do not obey him.

# Ananias and Sapphira

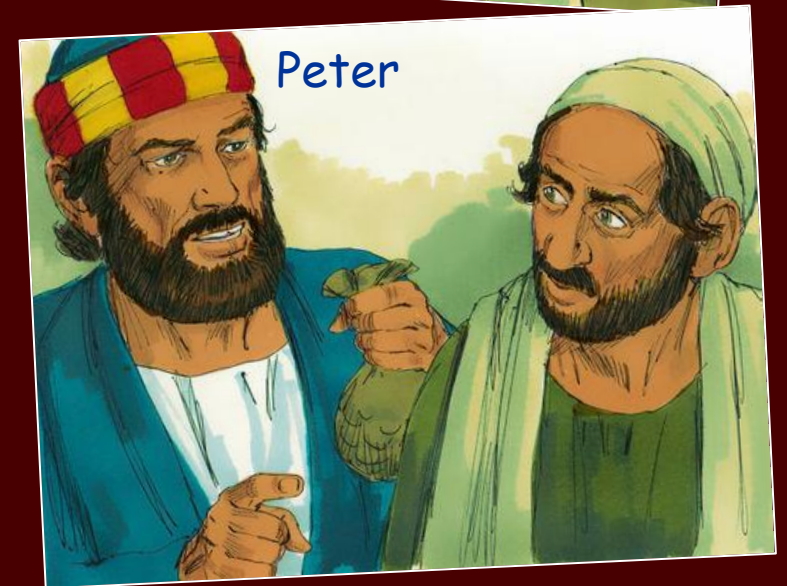
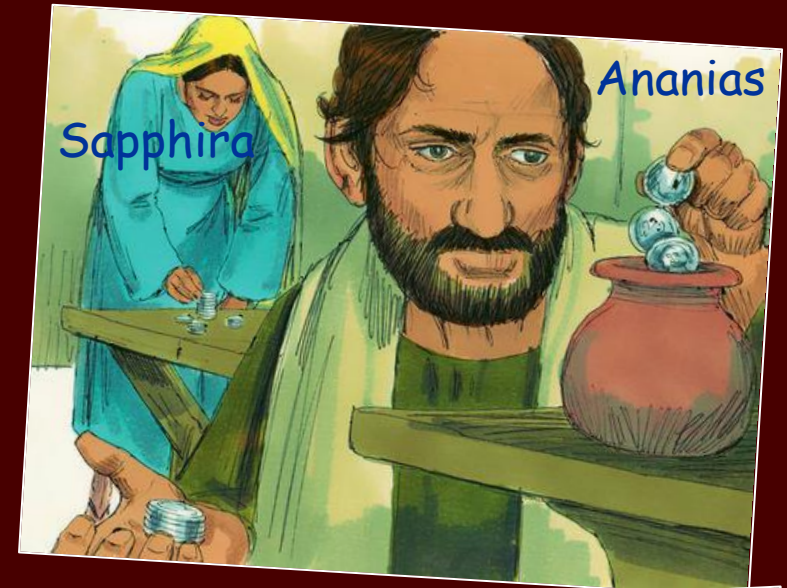
Acts 5:1-11

The early Christians sold their possessions and gave the money to help those in need...



A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some land. But he gave only part of the money to the apostles. He secretly kept some of it for himself.

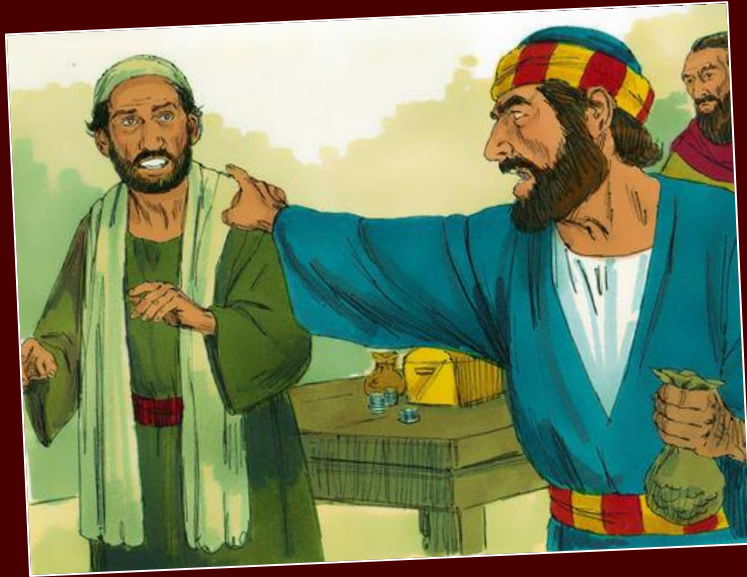
His wife knew about this, and she agreed to it.



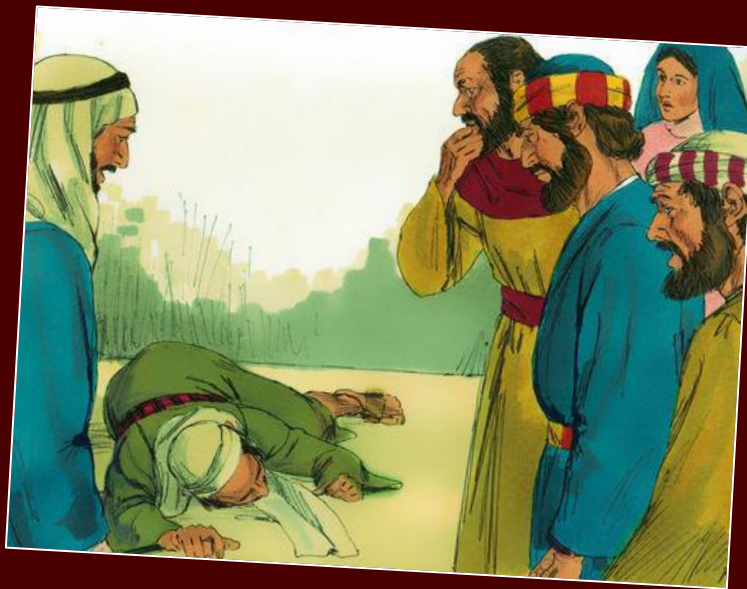


# Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:1-11

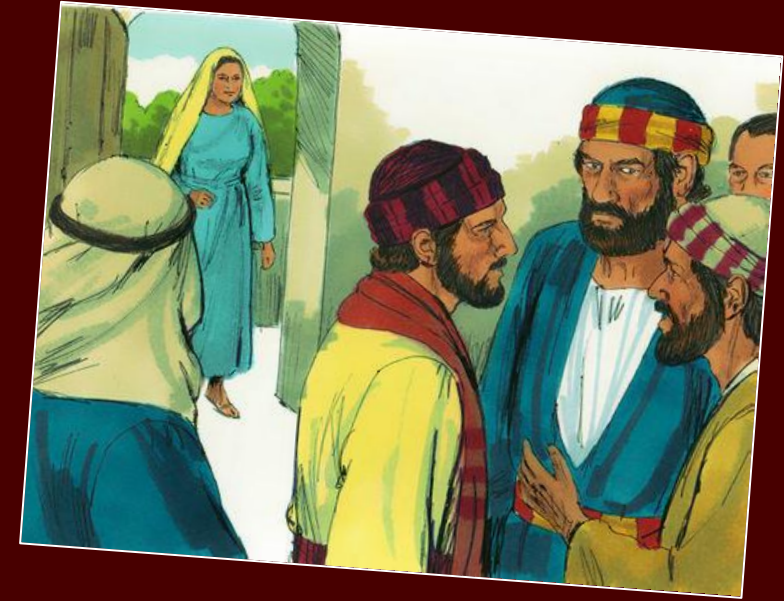


Peter said, "Ananias, why did you let Satan rule your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit. Why did you keep part of the money you received for the land for yourself? Before you sold the land, it belonged to you. And even after you sold it, you could have used the money any way you wanted. Why did you think of doing this? You lied to God, not to men!"



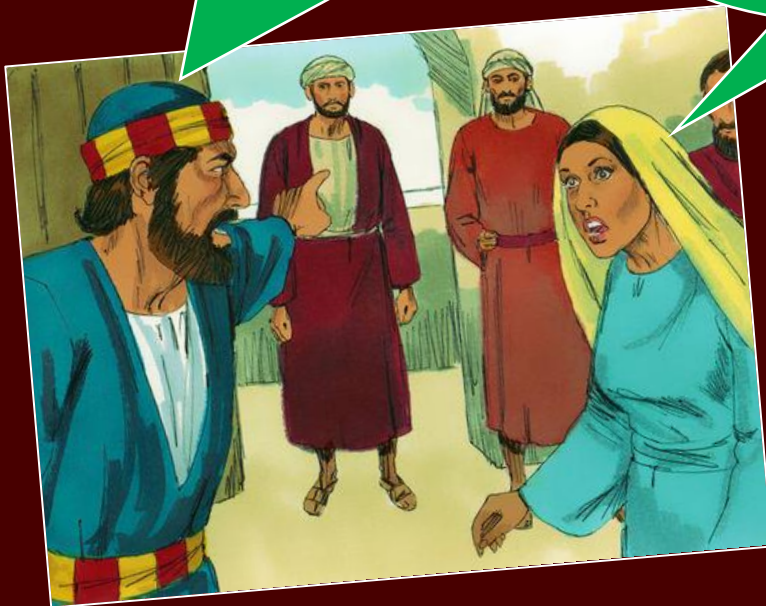
When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. Some young men came in, wrapped up his body, carried it out, and buried it. And everyone who heard about this was filled with fear.

About three hours later his wife came in. She did not know what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me how much money you got for your field. Was it this much?"



Why did you and your husband agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?

Yes that was the price.



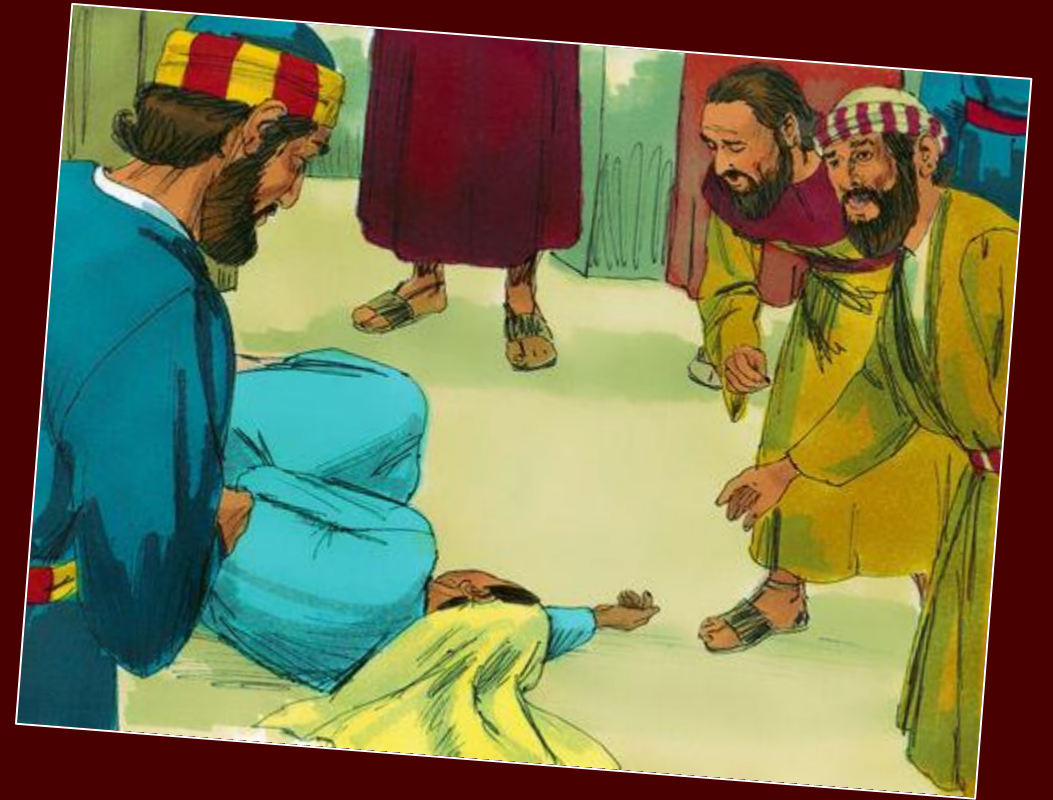
Sapphira answered, "Yes, that was the price."

Peter said to her, "Why did you and your husband agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The men who buried your husband are at the door! They will carry you out."



At that moment Sapphira fell down by his feet and died. The young men came in and saw that she was dead. They carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

The whole church and all the others who heard about these things were filled with fear.



# Questions...

In the early Church, many people shared their belongings because they loved each other. Some sold houses or land and generously gave all the money they received to the Church.

(To answer some of the questions below, you need to read the bible passage carefully.)

1. Use 3 words to describe the early Church community
2. How did the early Christians show unity among them?
3. What did Ananias and Sapphira do that was different from what others did?
4. Which of the following is true about Ananias & Sapphira (can choose more than one):
  - They loved the community and wanted to help
  - They wanted the community to know they donated all the money received
  - They desired people to praise their generosity
  - They lied to the community
5. Who did Ananias and Sapphira lie to? Was it just Peter and the other apostles?

# Questions...

6. Was God too harsh on Ananias & Sapphira by punishing with death on the spot?
7. If Ananias had told Peter the truth, do you think God would strike him down? Why?
8. Which of the following does God want from us? (can have more than 1 answer)
  - Our desire to be holy as God is holy
  - Our generosity and kindness to others
  - Our truthfulness to God and each other
9. What do you learn about God's character from this story?
10. Think for a minute...What motivates you to do things? Are you seeking praise from people or from God?
  - Give examples

# Achan

Joshua Ch 7

There is another similar story in the Old Testament.

After God led Joshua and Israel to defeat Jericho, all the things in Jericho had to be dedicated to God. That means gold and silver should be taken to the tabernacle, everything else should be burned.

But Achan secretly kept some things for himself...

Israel then lost a battle they were quite confident in winning. God revealed to the community that Achan had sinned. People then found "a beautiful coat from Babylonia", some silver and gold buried in his tent.

Achan was punished and died. Israel was able to regain victory against its enemies.

What similarities do you see between Achan & Ananias?





# Summary

## 3 learnings from the stories of Achan & Ananias:

### For God's people through the ages

God was in the early stage of building up...

- ❑ His people, Israel
- ❑ His people, the Church

He dealt with sin harshly so sin wouldn't spread and destroy His people



### For the Church today

- ❑ God desires His Church to be holy and hate sin
- ❑ God waits patiently for us to repent so we don't receive immediate judgment like Achan/Ananias



### For each of us

- ❑ Examine our motives in doing things
- ❑ Seek praise from God, not from people

# Extra: The Courageous Story of a Missionary

In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the hermit kingdom of Korea was determined to keep foreigners and Christianity out. However, one brave missionary would do anything to bring the light of God into this dark land.

With the help of some Korean fishermen hungry for truth, **Robert Thomas** risked everything to smuggle in a treasure beyond all imagination.

But what would his bravery cost him?  
Would the Word of God bring light to this dark kingdom? (from the Torchlighters)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OObPmhE67I>

(34 minutes)

# *Family Prayer Time*

1. Thank God for His Word and help so we may learn from Him.
2. Ask your children to pray for what they have learned just now.
3. Ask your family how you can pray for them specifically.

# 聖靈的果子

## *Fruit of the Spirit*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E148UxYDLgY>

仁爱喜乐和平  
忍耐恩慈良善  
信实温和节制  
这些都是圣灵的果子

亲爱的圣灵在我心  
教导安慰使我结果子  
天天有喜乐在我心  
勇敢站稳爱人如己

[RAP]  
我有仁爱、喜乐、和平和忍耐  
恩慈、良善、信实和温柔  
不不不要忘记还有节制  
这些都是圣灵的果子