

LESSON PLAN

ANANIAS AND SAPHIRA

Acts 5

Lesson Memory Verse: Revelation 21:8 - "But the fearful and unbelieving...and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Lesson Aim: To hate lying and try by God's power not to tell a lie.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): A man kept a talking bird in a cage in his office. He called the bird, Blue Boy. One day a boy came into his office and the man stepped out for a few minutes. When he returned he noticed the cage was empty.

He asked the boy where the bird was, but the boy said, "I do not know." Then the man called, "Blue Boy, where are you?"

Immediately the bird answered his owner's call, "Here I am!"

The bird's voice came from the boy's pocket! The boy had sinned! In what ways had the boy sinned? (First he stole the bird, and then he lied when he said he did not know where the bird was.)

Almost everyone has told one or more lies before he or she became a Christian, but after becoming a Christian all lying must stop by the power that God gives, because He hates a lying tongue.

HE (for Authority): In our memory verse we learn what God does to those who lie. Let's read the memory verse (have the part of Revelation 21:8 that they are to memorize written out on a poster board). What happens to those who tell lies? We must ask Jesus to save them from the punishment of our lies and other sins so we will go to Heaven instead of the Lake of Fire.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our Bible story today we will learn how much God hates lies. Our Bible story is about Ananias and Sapphira who were husband and wife. They lived in Jerusalem in the days when Peter lived in that city. All of the Christians decided to give what they owned to the Jerusalem Church (Acts 4:32-37). Barnabas sold his land and brought his money to the church. Ananias and Sapphira thought this was a good idea, so they sold their land, too. When they looked at all the money they had received from selling their land, they decided to keep part of the money for themselves and give the rest to God. So far they had not sinned, but listen to the story carefully and see what happened.

I. Ananias Lied - Acts 5:2-6

A. Ananias sold some land to give the money from the sale of it to the church – 5:1-4.

1. He kept some of the money for himself and his wife knew what he had done - 5:1-2.
2. He wanted the church to believe he gave all of this money to the church - 5:3-4.
3. Peter said that he lied, not to the church, but to God. He knew what was in his heart – 5:3-4

WE: We lie when we deceive people. Ananias covered his lie by giving some of that money to the church, when he had kept some of it for himself. He did something that was wicked instead of good. He was lying. A lie is still a lie, when we deceive people by some good works.

B. Ananias thought no one would know about his deception (lie).

1. God knew about his lie before he took the money to the church; God knows everything.
2. Peter knew about his lie; he told him that he lied to the Holy Spirit. God must have told Peter.
3. The whole church found out about his lie when he was punished by God.
4. People outside of the church found out about God's punishment for his lie.

WE: We cannot hide our lies. God knows about them and soon others will learn about them. The only way to handle our lies is to confess them and to stop lying by the power that God gives to us.

C. He got caught immediately – 5:4-5.

1. He lied to God even though he thought it was only to men (5:4).
2. He died in the church (5:5).

LESSON PLAN

WE: We will get caught for every lie that we tell. God may not punish us right away because He may want to give us a chance to repent and be sorry for our sin. But God does not forget our sin until we confess it. We are caught by God as soon as we sin and we will be punished unless we repent and ask Him to forgive us. The best practice is not to lie. The next best practice is to confess them and then stop our lying. We must never think that we are going to get away with our lies.

II. Sapphira Lied - Acts 5:7-11

A. She thought all was well (5:7).

1. She went to the church about three hours after her husband brought their gift to the church.
2. She undoubtedly thought she would be held in high respect for their gift to the church.
3. She had no idea that her husband had already died for lying.

WE: We may think we can gain favor with people by lying. In reality, we lose favor when they find out that we lied. When we lie, we can be sure of one thing – all is not well.

B. She was questioned to prove her guilt (5:8).

1. Peter asked her if she and her husband had sold their land for a certain amount of money.
2. She said that was the correct amount. Peter wanted to make sure both of them were lying.
3. Sapphira agreed with her husband, so she was worthy of death along with her husband.

WE: We may think that a lie is not so bad if two or more agree. In fact, we may think it is no one else's business if you lie. We are wrong both times. A lie told by one or by many is still hated by God, and it is God's business to put a stop to lying, especially among His own children. Therefore, whatever is God's business is also the church's business.

C. She was killed by God (5:9-11).

1. She was told that her lie was against the Spirit – 5:9.
2. She was told that she would die for her lie and be buried with her husband – 5:9.
3. She died at Peter's feet and was taken out and buried by her husband – 5:10.

There are times when God takes the life of a Christian who sins because that one is not worthy to live on the earth any longer (cf. 1 Cor 11:29-30; 1 Jn 5:16).

4. Everyone who heard about the punishment of Ananias and Sapphira feared God – 5:11.

WE: We respect God when we see His judgments on sinners. It should keep us from lying.

III. Peter Told the Truth - Acts 5:3-42. These thoughts are not completely developed, but they can be worked into this lesson if the teacher has enough time.

- A. Peter told the truth to Ananias (5:3-4).
- B. Peter told the truth to Sapphira (5:8-9).
- C. Peter told the truth to the people in the temple (5:19-21, 25).
- D. Peter told the truth to the council and to the high priest (5:27-33).
- E. Peter continued to tell the truth in the temple and in every house (5:40-42).
- F. Peter made the people angry who hated truth, but it blessed those who loved the truth.
- G. Peter was known as a man of God for telling the truth.

WE: We must tell the truth if we want to please God and be used by Him.

BE (for Action): Which is worse, to lie or to steal? Both are very bad, but it seems that to lie is worse. Why? Well, if you steal something, you can return it, or pay for it. But if you lie, you cannot return it or pay for it. What is said is final. All you can do is confess it and be forgiven, but the lie is hard to change. Someone will probably remember the lie you told, believe it and never hear your confession.

Do you see how bad it is to lie? How many of you want God's help to stop lying? If you want God's help, then you must confess to God all of the lies that you can remember. You must also confess these lies to the people to whom you told them. When we confess our sins, God will forgive us and make us clean by the blood of Jesus Christ. If you want to stop lying, please raise your hand so we can talk after class. (Pray for everyone in the class to hate lying and seek God's power to keep each one from lying.)