

## **We Are The Church: A Holy Community**

**READ:** Acts 4:32-5:11

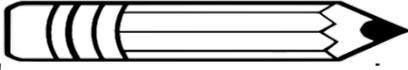
1. Does the story of Ananias and Sapphira shock you? Was their crime really that bad? Was their crime merely keeping their own money for themselves or something deeper?
2. How does Barnabas' generosity relate to the deceit that follows? What do you make of Acts 4:32-34? Would you like to live within such a community? What does the example of the others tell us about Ananias and Sapphira's motives?
3. In what ways might we be tempted to withhold resources from others/God? How is God's holiness 'good news' in this passage?
4. How did Peter know (5:3-4)? Has there ever been a time when you have witnessed a similar ministry to the one exercised by Peter over this or another issue? Share your thoughts/emotions.
5. Are there any consequences to community when individuals lie (or sin in general)? Read Joshua 7 and notice the similarities in the language used to describe Achan's deceit. Why do we think that any sin is "innocent" or assume that it will only hurt the individual and not the community? What is the truth about sin and its effects?
6. Luke says that "not a needy person was among them." How is this even possible? What drove such sacrificial generosity? Do such tangible expressions of love distinguish our church? Do they characterize our own personal lives? Does the plight of those who are in need arouse within us a desire to help in some way? Do our lives reflect the consistency described here?
7. Consider the many financial abuses/frauds the Church has been known for in the last few decades (both fairly and unfairly). How does financial integrity (not being deceitful) and faithfulness (tithing) affect our witness to the world?
8. Discuss Acts 5:11. How is 'fear' a good (or bad) motivation in the journey of faith for (a) yourself and (b) the church? How are Ananias and Sapphira's deaths a physical representation of a spiritual reality?

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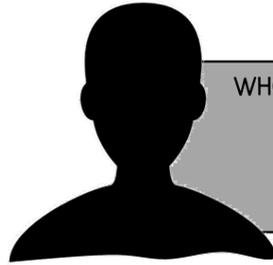
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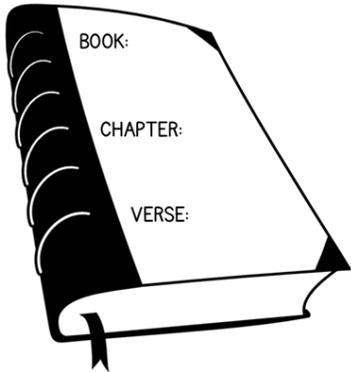
# Sermon Notes



USE THIS SHEET TO HELP YOU HEAR AND RESPOND TO WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO YOU THROUGH HIS WORD TODAY



WHO IS SPEAKING...?

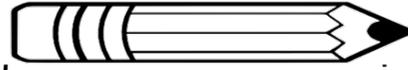


WHAT ARE THE KEY POINTS OF THE MESSAGE...?

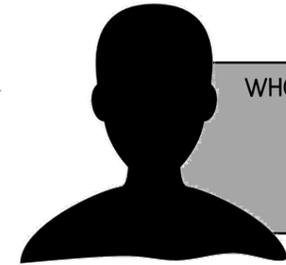
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WHAT'S YOUR RESPONSE...?

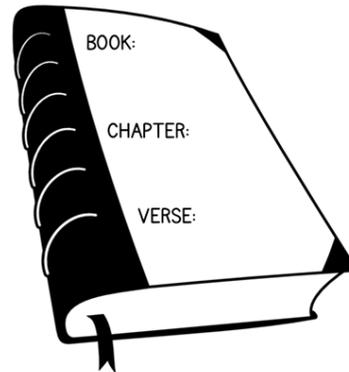
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