Ananias and Sapphira: Understanding the Cost of Deception



A 7-day journey exploring the story of Ananias and Sapphira, learning the serious consequences of lying to God and living in honesty.





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Introduction

The story of Ananias and Sapphira, found in Acts 5:1-11, serves as a powerful and sobering warning to believers about the seriousness of deceit, especially when it comes to our relationship with God. In the early church, the believers shared everything in common, demonstrating radical honesty and generosity. Yet when Ananias and Sapphira chose to lie about their offering, their actions had severe consequences.

This Bible study plan invites you to dig deeply into Scripture to uncover what God teaches us through this story. You'll learn how integrity matters to God, how the Holy Spirit works in the community of believers, and what it means to live authentically before Him and others. While their decision may seem extreme, God's holiness demands honesty, and He does not tolerate hypocrisy or deception within His family.

Through daily reflections, Scripture readings, and prayers, this study will challenge you to examine your heart and motives. Are you walking with a sincere devotion to God? Are there areas where you hide truth, or seek approval through pretense? You'll discover vital lessons about repentance, accountability, and the power of truth to free and heal.

Join this journey and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal where you need growth in integrity and faithfulness. May you come away with a clearer understanding of God's expectations and a renewed commitment to honesty in your walk







with Him. Let's explore together the cost of lying to God and the blessings of living in truth.















Your Verse

Acts 5:1-2 - "But a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet."

Supporting Scriptures

- Proverbs 12:22 "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy."
- Psalm 15:1–2 "Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? The one whose walk is blameless... who speaks the truth from their heart."







Devotional: Trusting God with Integrity Matters

On this first day, we encounter the introduction to Ananias and Sapphira's story. They sold property but decided not to give all the proceeds to the apostles, yet they claimed to have given everything. What motivated them? Possibly fear, greed, or desire for approval. This passage challenges us to reflect on how we trust God and how transparent we are with others.

God asks us to trust Him wholeheartedly and to be honest in our giving and living. Even in our generosity, partial hearts can creep in, and our integrity is on the line. What does it mean to you today to be trustworthy in God's eyes? How do your actions align with your words? Like the psalmist says, God delights in those who are truthful from the heart, not just in appearances.

Let this story set the tone for honesty and faithfulness in your walk with God this week. Are there areas to surrender fully?







Reflect and Apply

1.	Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira chose to lie rather than be honest?
2.	In what areas of your life do you struggle with full honesty before God and others?
3.	How can you cultivate a heart that delights God through truthfulness?







Journaling Prompts

	Write about a time you were tempted to hide the truth from God or others. What happened?
2.	Describe what trusting God wholeheartedly means to you personally.
3.	List practical steps you can take to grow in integrity this week.







Prayer for Today

Lord, give me a heart that trusts You fully. Help me to live honestly before You and others, embracing Your truth instead of hiding behind appearances. Teach me to surrender any motives of fear or greed and to walk in integrity. May my life reflect Your holiness and transparency. *Thank You for Your grace that enables change.* Amen.







Day 2: The Deception Revealed: Facing Our True Motives









Day 2: 💔 The Deception Revealed: Facing Our True Motives

Your Verse

Acts 5:3 – "Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit...?""

Supporting Scriptures

- Hebrews 4:13 "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight."
- 1 Samuel 16:7 "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."







Day 2: 💔 The Deception Revealed: Facing Our True Motives

Devotional: The Heart Behind the Lie Matters

Today we find the moment Peter confronts Ananias about his deceit. Notice how Peter says Satan filled Ananias's heart. Lying to God isn't just a small sin; it opens the door for deception and spiritual danger.

What motivates dishonesty? Often it's pride, fear of man, or desire for control. But God desires our hearts in truth. This passage reminds us of the normal human tendency to mask our true intentions or hide sin. Yet God sees what is hidden deep inside – He knows our hearts perfectly.

In what ways might we rationalize our small sins or lies? This story calls us to face our motives honestly and allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and healing.







Day 2: 🎔 The Deception Revealed: Facing Our True Motives

Reflect and Apply

1.	How does knowing God sees your heart affect your daily choices?
2.	What fears or desires might lead you to hide the truth from God?
3.	How can you invite the Holy Spirit to reveal and cleanse hidden sin?







Day 2: 🎔 The Deception Revealed: Facing Our True Motives

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a hidden motive you sometimes struggle with.
2.	Reflect on how God's view differs from human judgment.
3.	Pray for courage to confess and surrender any dishonesty in your heart.







Day 2: 🎔 The Deception Revealed: Facing Our True Motives

Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, search my heart deeply. Reveal any areas of deception or pride I carry. Help me to confess and surrender all that is not pleasing to You. Fill me with truth and purity so that I may live openly and sincerely. Teach me to walk humbly before You every day. Thank You for Your loving conviction. Amen. 🙌 💖 🔍















Your Verse

Acts 5:5 – "When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened."

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death..."
- Isaiah 59:2 "Your sins have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you..."







Devotional: Respecting God's Holiness and Justice

The sudden death of Ananias shocked the early church. It illustrates the seriousness with which God treats sin, especially in the context of the church community and the work of the Holy Spirit.

God is holy and just, and sin — particularly deceit against Him — has consequences. While God is merciful and full of grace, Scripture also teaches that sin wages war on our souls. The fear that seized the community was not just about death, but about reverence for God's holiness.

This incident calls us to respect God's justice and recognize the real cost of sin. It's a call to repentance and a sober reminder to live righteously.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you understand God's holiness in light of this story?
2.	What role does fear of the Lord play in your spiritual life?
3.	How can you live more reverently recognizing the seriousness of sin?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe your feelings about God's justice and holiness.
2.	Reflect on moments when you ignored the seriousness of sin.
3.	Write a prayer asking God to instill a holy fear in your heart.







Prayer for Today















Your Verse

Acts 5:8 - "Peter asked her, 'Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?' 'Yes,' she said, 'that is the price.'"

Supporting Scriptures

- Proverbs 1:10-15 The lure of sinners to join their deceitful ways.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 "Two are better than one... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."







Devotional: The Danger of Being Complicit in Sin

Sapphira's moment to confess arrives, and she doubles down on the lie. Her choice shows how one person's sin can involve and impact others.

When we choose to hide sin or support wrongdoing, we become complicit and face consequences too. Sapphira could have chosen honesty and possibly redemption, but instead she aligned herself with deception, which led to her death.

This reality encourages us to take personal responsibility and to resist peer pressure or complicity in dishonesty. The early church was a community built on trust and truth, and complicity breaks that foundation.

How do your decisions affect those around you spiritually?







Reflect and Apply

1.	Have you ever been complicit in a lie or sin? How did it affect you and others?
<i>2.</i>	What pressures might lead you to go along with dishonesty?
<i>3.</i>	How can you practice courage to stand for truth, even if alone?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Recall a time you supported or stayed silent about wrongdoing.
2.	Write about how you want to respond differently in the future.
3.	List ways you can encourage honesty in your community.







Prayer for Today















Your Verse

1 John 1:9 – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 51:1-2 "Have mercy on me... Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."
- Luke 15:7 "There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons."







Devotional: Embracing God's Grace Through Repentance

Although Ananias and Sapphira faced fatal judgment, God graciously offers forgiveness to all who repent. The story reminds us of the importance of confessing sin and turning away from it.

Repentance is not just feeling sorry but choosing a new direction aligned with God's will. God's forgiveness cleanses us and restores us into right relationship with Him.

How does God's readiness to forgive encourage you to be honest about your struggles and seek His mercy? Today is a day to embrace grace and let go of guilt.







Reflect and Apply

1.	What is your understanding of true repentance?
2.	Are there sins you need to confess honestly to God today?
3.	How can you live in the freedom of God's forgiveness?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write a confession prayer to God in your own words.
2.	Reflect on the impact of forgiveness in your life.
3.	Plan practical ways to walk in righteousness daily.







Prayer for Today

Merciful Father, I come confessing my sins to You. Thank You for Your faithful forgiveness and cleansing power. Help me to turn fully from anything that grieves You and to live a renewed life. Fill me with Your Spirit and guide me in Your truth every step of the way. In Jesus' name, Amen. \triangle















Your Verse

Galatians 5:16 - "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians 5:8 "Live as children of light."
- John 8:32 "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."







Devotional: Empowered by the Spirit to Live Honestly

Walking honestly before God means living by the Spirit's power, not our own strength. Ananias and Sapphira's failure was rooted in the flesh's desires—pride, greed, and fear.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to live transparently and avoid sin's traps. Living as children of light means revealing truth in our hearts and actions, which brings freedom and maturity.

Today's reflection calls you to invite the Spirit's leading daily, so honest living becomes natural and empowering rather than a burden.







Reflect and Apply

1.	In what ways is the Spirit leading you to greater transparency?
2.	How do you resist the desires of the flesh that lead to deception?
<i>3.</i>	What does 'walking by the Spirit' look like in your daily life?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about times the Spirit led you to speak or live truthfully.
2.	List habits that help you stay connected to the Spirit.
3.	Reflect on areas needing growth in spiritual transparency.







Prayer for Today

Spirit of God, fill me anew today. Lead me away from pride, fear, and deceit. Help me to walk in your light and truth, empowered to live honestly and kindly. May my life be a testimony of Your transforming power. Thank You for being my guide and strength. Amen. 😢 🖰 🥬

















Day 7: Place Integrity for a Witnessing Life

Your Verse

Philippians 2:15 – "So that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.""

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
- Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."







Day 7: V Integrity for a Witnessing Life

Devotional: Shining Bright Through Integrity

The ultimate goal of living with integrity is to be a clear witness of God's love and truth. Ananias and Sapphira's story contrasts the impact of hypocrisy with the beauty of genuine faith.

As God's children, we are called to shine in a world often darkened by deceit and moral compromise. Living with integrity influences those around us and honors God through our actions and character.

As you conclude this study, reflect on how to integrate lessons learned into everyday life and be a light that points others to Christ.







Day 7: 🎾 Integrity for a Witnessing Life

Reflect and Apply

1.	How does integrity affect your witness to the world?
2	What steps can you take to become blameless and pure before God?
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<i>3.</i>	How can your daily actions glorify God in your community?







Day 7: P Integrity for a Witnessing Life

Journaling Prompts

1.	Commit to one area where you will pursue greater integrity.
2.	Write about how your life can reflect God's light this week.
3.	Plan practical ways to encourage honesty and faithfulness around you.







Day 7: Place Integrity for a Witnessing Life

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to live blamelessly before You and others. Make me a shining light in this world through my words and actions. Empower me to honor You with integrity in everything I do. May my life draw others closer to You and glorify Your name. Thank You for Your love and guidance. Amen. ?







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