

## My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 14 - Acts 4:32-5:11

**Summary of this week's teaching:** This week's passage begins by painting a beautiful picture of the early church's unity and generosity. Despite the growing opposition and persecution, the early church continued to flourish and grow. Their priorities seem clear: God came first, people and their needs came second, and finally earthly possessions came in at a distant third. Sadly, this was not true for all the believers. Acts 5:1-11 relates the tragic tale of Ananias and Sapphira, who conspired to appear selfless, generous, and God-honoring when in fact they were not.

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. Have you ever experienced God's provision and generosity through other believers? If so, would you mind sharing how?

**Seed:** The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 4:32-5:11.

1. What encouraging elements do you see in this passage?
2. What challenging elements do you see in this passage?
3. What is the lesson or takeaway that we are supposed to learn from this incident?

**Roots:** Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. Do passages like this make it harder for you to personally connect with the same God who took Ananias and Sapphira's lives? Why or who not?
2. How are you personally connecting with the Lord during this season of life?

**Trunk:** Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. As believers, it is often easier to avoid or ignore "problem passages" such as this one. Why is such an approach ultimately detrimental for our faith in the Lord?
2. How do we make sense of this passage? How can it/should it inform our faith in God?

**Crown:** Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Apart from the heartbreaking portrayal of sin and its consequences, what can we learn from this passage regarding how we can best steward our resources?
2. If we belong to God (Galatians 2:20), can we honestly claim ownership of anything?

