



the upside down series
week five: lies, choices, and crossroads

1. You can lie to others but you can't lie to the _____.
2. Your life is made up of a series of _____.
3. Your decisions at life's _____ reveal the true _____ of your heart.
4. Your _____ of God determines your _____ every time.

The captain has removed the seat belt sign. You are now free to roam about the cabin. In other words, girls, we are now well under way in our journey through Acts. This week we will be dealing with a rather difficult passage. I pray you are ready for it!



day one: liar liar pants on fire

The story of Ananias and Sapphira is one of the scariest in the entire Bible. Make sure you pray before today's lesson.

Now Read Acts 5:1-11.

exploring the text

1. Read closely the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Write it out in your own words.
2. Did anyone force Ananias and Sapphira to sell their land and give it to the church?
3. Who put the evil idea into the heart of Ananias?

4. Where did the sin actually begin according to verse 4?

5. Against whom did Ananias and Sapphira sin?

6. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

7. How did the actions of Ananias and Sapphira contrast with those of Barnabas in Acts 4:36-37?

8. What effect did God's judgment on Ananias and Sapphira have on the church?

9. Why do you think God judged Ananias and Sapphira so quickly?

interesting fact

It is easy to make it appear to others that we have done all we can, when we lie and know it. The danger is not so much that we do not give more, as in professing more than we practice. God wants true consecration and cannot be fooled.



day two: the fear of the Lord

Yesterday was a hard lesson to digest. As you understand the fear of the Lord, I hope your response is one of repentance and running towards him rather than persisting in sin.

Start today with prayer. Now read Acts 5:12-16. We are going to spend a little bit of time talking about the fear of the Lord today.

exploring the text

1. Summarize the context of today's reading. What had just happened prior to seeing the events of today's reading?
2. Who was performing the signs and wonders?
3. What was the reaction of the people in vs.13 to what was happening? Why do you think they may have been afraid of the apostles?

4. Yet in vs.14 we see that the work was growing. Why do you think that is?

verse

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

5. Don't forget that this same Peter who was leading the pack in healings and signs was the one who fled the Lord at the time of the resurrection. How can you explain his radical transformation from coward to leader?

personal application

6. Now think about your life. Is the fear of the Lord a good thing or a bad thing? Explain.
7. How can having a healthy fear of the Lord lead to growth in your life and ministry?



day three: words of life

Hope you're enjoying this study. Today's passage is amazing. You're going to love this story!! I'm so excited to know that you're about to be encouraged by the Lord through His word in a mighty way.

Read Acts 5:17-29

exploring the text

1. Although many were being added to the church, the religious leaders were not happy. Why did the rulers arrest the apostles?
2. What happened during the night?
3. God often works during the night. Are you facing a dark night season? How does this passage encourage you to hope in the Lord?

4. What did the angel want the apostles to say when he released them from prison?

interesting fact

5. What are the words of life?

6. What do you think the high priest concluded when he saw the prison empty?

The church's primary goal is evangelism. It is to carry on the work begun by the Lord Jesus Christ, whose mission was "to seek and to save that which was lost"
(Luke 19:10 NKJV)

7. Why did the rulers treat the apostles without force in vs.26?

8. In Vs. 28 we get to the heart of why the rulers were upset. What was behind their strong opposition to the apostles?



day four: tested and tried

We must obey God rather than men.

Those were some pivotal words spoken by Peter. I hope you are living that way too.

Today, read Acts 5:30-39

exploring the text

1. In Peter's response to the high priest, he explains why they must obey God rather than men. Summarize what his reasons are according to vs. 30-31.

interesting fact

Gamaliel is the grandson of the revered rabbi Hillel, and most noted rabbi of his time.

2. Why did Jesus hang on a tree? You can look up I Peter 2:24 as well.

“for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. Acts 5:38

3. Who receives the Holy Spirit as explained in vs. 32?

4. How did the rulers respond to Peter's explanation?



day five: for the sake of Christ

We will finish up our study this week with a small section of Acts 5.

Read Acts 5:35-42

exploring the text

1. Before the rulers let the apostles go, what did they do to them? Why did they do it?
2. What was the apostles' reaction to the mistreatment?
3. What motivated the apostles to go on?
4. What was the main focus and purpose of the apostles as stated in vs. 42?

verse

Galatians 6:14

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

