

Acts 5:1-24 Study Guide

Review:

Acts 1: Jesus Christ (in His resurrected body) spends 40 more days teaching, showing proofs of His resurrection, and giving direction of “next steps” for the church to be built. (**Verses 1-8**). **Verses 9-11** detail Jesus’ ascension into heaven and angels describe how He will return a 2nd time. Jesus’ followers gather in the Upper Room and proceed to fill Judas’ position with Matthias as well as explaining what happened to Judas.

Acts 2: (Verses 1-41) At Pentecost (50 days after Passover and Jesus’ crucifixion; 10 days after Jesus bodily ascended - He ascends after those 40 days of teaching), all of Jesus’ followers were still gathered together waiting for what Jesus promised. Devout Jews came from all over to Jerusalem for Pentecost (also known Feast of Weeks/Booths). These devout Jews witnessed a sign of flames of tongues visually over Jesus’ followers (came like a wind noise) that enabled them to declare God’s mighty deeds in these devout Jews’ own native language. Reminder, up until this point, God’s Word was only heard in Hebrew and Aramaic. Peter stands up (most likely from prayer position with others) and explains, through Old Testament prophecy, what they are seeing. Peter then shows how they killed their Messiah by crucifying Jesus. They are convicted and ask what to do. Peter tells them to “repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Peter tells them this is for everyone who does that in order to become God’s child. 3,000 souls are added. In **Verses 42-47**, we learn of the church beginnings as they continued to devote themselves to the apostles teaching (which will become our New Testament), to fellowship, to breaking of bread and to prayer. The church begins to take care of each other as they have need and the Lord adds to their number.

Acts 3: (Verses 1-26) - On the way to the temple, Peter and John intersect with a beggar who was lame from birth. After Jesus healing them *through* Peter and John, many marvel at how they could do this healing. This sign/miracle was in front of many people (witnesses) who had known this lame man over the years and allows for Peter to share the gospel to a large crowd. The actual healing is not the miracle; but the manifestation of it. The true miracle is that God is using these common fishermen to be His spokespeople - His mouth. Peter shows, through the Old Testament history how Jesus was their Christ and how they killed Him. Peter concludes by telling them that Jesus, the Christ (their Messiah) was sent first to the Jewish nation as a blessing so that they will have the opportunity to turn from their wicked ways (i.e. rejecting Jesus, God’s Son).

Acts 4: (Verses 1-37) - God uses a lame man’s healing to put His power on display through Peter and John. This was a very public healing that drew a crowd for God to speak through the apostle Peter. Believers in Jesus as their Jewish Messiah grew as well as the truth of the Jewish leaders and nation being involved in Jesus’ murder. This upset Jewish leaders since, instead of Jesus’ crucifixion removing the threats to their control, it endangered their power more. They removed Peter and John to prison as they confer together of their next steps. They realize that they cannot discount that a miracle has happened to this formerly lame man since many knew him for decades and he was physically visible to all around. They decide to utilize fear to try to intimidate Peter and John and we begin to see the first signs of persecution against Jesus’ followers. Peter and John boldly stand up to the Sanhedrin (the Jewish court) and tell them that they must obey God over man. When they return to their fellow believers in Christ, they pray for more boldness from God to speak the gospel. God answers with a physical earthquake and they rejoice that God has heard their prayer. The church continues to grow as believers come together to share with those who have need. We meet Barnabas who sells a large field to give the earnings to the church. We will see how some, who look at actions without considering the heart/motive, will copy Barnabas. Unfortunately, their motives are selfish and their hypocrisy will be exposed and quickly judged.

Scriptures in Study Guide:

Scriptures this week are in the CSB (Christian Standard Bible). To make things easier, the actual verses will be included in your daily lessons to help you with the missing words. If you have any questions, write them down and we can talk about them in Sunday School.

Day 1 (Acts 5: 1-6)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 5** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

5 **1** But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. **2** However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? **4** Wasn't it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God." **5** When he heard these words, Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard. **6** The young men got up, wrapped his body, carried him out, and buried him.

Verse 1:

- But a _____ named Ananias, _____ his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of _____.
- **Questions:**
 - What was the man's name? _____
 - What was his wife's name? _____
 - What did they sell? _____

Verse 2:

- _____, he kept _____ part of the proceeds _____ his wife's knowledge, and brought a _____ of it and _____ it at the apostles' feet.
- **Questions:**
 - What did the man, Ananias, keep back? _____
 - What does the word "proceeds" mean? _____
 - Who else had knowledge that this man, Ananias, kept back part of the profit from this property sale? _____
 - What did this man, Ananias, bring and lay down at the apostles' feet? _____
- **Look back at Acts 4:34-35** to answer the following questions:
 - In **Acts 4:34**, what type of person was NOT found among those in the early church?

 - According to **Acts 4:34**, why was there not a needy person among them?

 - According to **Acts 4:34-35**, where did those who sold land and houses lay the proceeds of the sale?

 - According to **Acts 4:35**, what was the purpose of laying the profit (proceeds) from these sales at the apostles feet? _____
 - According to this verse (**Acts 5:2**), where did Ananias lay down this portion of money from the sale?

Finish the following Scripture:

1 Samuel 16:7 - A human person looks "at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks _____."

Day 1 (cont'd)

Verse 3-4:

- “Ananias,” Peter _____, “why has Satan _____ your heart to lie _____ the Holy _____ and keep back _____ of the proceeds of the _____?”
- Wasn't it _____ while you _____ it?
- And _____ it was _____, wasn't it _____ your _____?
- Why _____ it that you _____ this thing in your _____?
- You _____ not lied to _____ but _____ God.”
- **Questions:**
 - What does Peter ask Ananias in **verse 3**? _____
 - Who does Peter say has filled Ananias' heart? _____
 - Who did that filling by Satan in Ananias' heart make him lie to? _____
 - Fill in the **3 questions, from verse 4**, that Peter asks Ananias?
 - Wasn't it (the piece of property) yours _____? _____?
 - After it was sold, wasn't _____?
 - Why is it that _____ this thing in _____?
 - Who does Peter say that he has really lied to? _____
 - Write out **Psalm 51:4** _____

 - According to **Psalm 51:4**, Who and Who alone is our sin against when we sin against a person?

 - How does knowledge that our sin toward anyone is really against God change our way of seeking forgiveness from another person? _____

Note: As we look at what Peter is saying to Ananias here, we get a clear definition on **how God views lying**. Notice that Ananias does not “announce” how much he is giving. He does what every one else is doing by laying the profits from sales and people assume that anyone doing this is giving the full amount of the proceeds. Ananias is misrepresenting himself here by omitting information for his actions to appear more generous and selfless than he actually is. This is pride. Ananias didn't have to give any money and the money isn't the point. The point is Ananias prideful heart has deceived him to want prestige from others over a godly character.

Write out **John 12:42** - _____

Verse 5:

- When he _____ these words, _____ dropped dead, and a great _____ came on _____ who heard.
- **Questions:**
 - What happened to Ananias when he heard Peter's words in **verse 3-4**? _____
 - What came over all who heard about Ananias dropping dead as judgement for his deception?

Verse 6:

- The young men _____ up, wrapped _____ body, _____ him out, _____ buried him.
- **Questions:**
 - What are the 3 things that the young men did to Ananias after they got up?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Day 2 (Acts 5:7-11)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 5** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

7 About three hours later, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** "Tell me," Peter asked her, "did you sell the land for this price?" "Yes," she said, "for that price." **9** Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." **10** Instantly she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men came in, they found her dead, carried her out, and buried her beside her husband. **11** Then great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard these things.

Verse 7:

- About three hours _____ his wife _____ in, not _____ what had _____.
- **Questions:**
 - How much time passed after Ananias died before his wife came into the temple? _____
 - Did Ananias' wife, Sapphira, know what had happened? _____

Verse 8:

- "_____ me," Peter asked _____, "did you _____ the land for this price?" "Yes," she said, "for _____ price."
- **Questions:**
 - What does Peter ask Ananias' wife, Sapphira? _____
 - What does Sapphira answer Peter? _____

Verse 9:

- Then _____ said to her, "Why _____ you _____ to test the Spirit _____ the Lord?"
- _____, the feet of _____ who have buried your husband _____ at the door, and they will carry _____ out."
- **Questions:**
 - Who does Peter say that Ananias' wife, Sapphira, agree with her husband to test? _____
 - Who is the "Spirit of the Lord" (**hint: 3rd in Triune**): _____
 - In **Acts 5:3**, Who did Peter say that Ananias lied to? _____
 - What does Peter say the feet of those who have buried her husband, Ananias, going to do with Sapphira? _____

Note: God takes deception and lying very seriously. Today, when a person says something incorrectly and goes to correct themselves, they sometimes say "I lied". But the person didn't lie, they misspoke. They were mistaken and said the wrong thing. A lie is a statement and/or action with an intention to deceive. We need to be careful when society tries to "redefine" what a word means; even to desensitize it. Lies eventually come to light and consequences follow.

- Write out **Luke 12:3**: _____
_____.

Verse 10:

- _____ she dropped dead at his _____. When the young _____ came in, they _____ her dead, carried her _____, and buried her _____ her husband.
- **Questions:**
 - What happens to Ananias' wife, Sapphira, instantly? _____
 - What did the young men find when they came in? _____
 - After they carried Sapphira out dead, where did they bury her? _____

Verse 11:

- Then great _____ came on the _____ church and on all who _____ these things.
- **Questions:**
 - What came over the whole church? _____
 - In addition to the whole church, why did all others have great fear? _____
- **Note:** this is the purity of the building of the church. God is to be treated as Holy. We also see this type of judgement in the early Jewish temple. Write out **Leviticus 10:1-2**: _____
_____.

Day 3 (Acts 5:12-16)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 5** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

12 Many signs and wonders were being done among the people through the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon’s Colonnade. **13** No one else dared to join them, but the people spoke well of them.

14 Believers were added to the Lord in increasing numbers—multitudes of both men and women. **15** As a result, they would carry the sick out into the streets and lay them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on some of them. **16** In addition, a multitude came together from the towns surrounding Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Verse 12:

- _____ signs and wonders were _____ done among the _____ through the _____ of the apostles.
- They _____ all _____ in Solomon’s Colonnade.

• **Questions:**

- What were done among the people? _____
- Through whose hands were these signs and wonders done? _____
- Where were they all together? _____
- **Note:** a sign or a wonder of God points to Him. Jesus, when He walked this earth in the flesh, met a physical need to reveal a spiritual need. As God moved through these apostles to physical build the church, He used these physical signs and wonders to validate that they were with Jesus.
- Write out **Acts 4:13** - _____

Verse 13:

- No one _____ dared to _____ them, but the people _____ well of _____.

• **Questions:**

- How many dared to join them? _____
- Even though no one else dared to join them, what did the people do? _____

Verse 14:

- Believers were _____ to the Lord in _____ numbers—multitudes of _____ men and women.

• **Questions:**

- Who were added to the Lord in increasing numbers? _____
- The multitudes that were added to the Lord were both who? _____

Verse 15:

- As a _____, they would _____ the sick out into the streets and _____ them on cots and _____ so that when _____ came by, at _____ his shadow might fall on _____ of them.

• **Questions:**

- As a result of increasing numbers, who did they carry out into the streets and lay them on cots?

- What did the people want of Peter to at least fall on some of them? _____

Verse 16:

- In addition, a _____ came together from the towns surrounding Jerusalem, bringing _____ sick and those who _____ tormented _____ unclean spirits, and they were _____ healed.

• **Questions:**

- Where did a multitude come together from? _____
- Who were physically healed when they came? _____

Note: Acts 5:15 “reflected the belief [Peter] had divine power and that his shadow might carry the power of healing. The Bible does not say that Peter’s shadow actually healed anyone, merely that the people believed it might.” (MacArthur, “The MacArthur New Testament Commentary”, p. 164). There is no record of any healing by Peter’s shadow recoded in the Scriptures.

Day 4 (Acts 5:17-21)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word. Read **Acts 5** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

17 Then the high priest rose up. He and all who were with him, who belonged to the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. **18** So they arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. **19** But an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail during the night, brought them out, and said, **20** "Go and stand in the temple, and tell the people all about this life." **21** Hearing this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Verse 17:

- _____ the high priest _____ up. He and _____ who were _____ him, who belonged _____ the party of _____ Sadducees, were _____ with jealousy.
- **Questions:**
 - Who rose up? _____
 - Who rose up with the high priest? _____
 - What were they filled with? _____
 - Why do you think that the high priest and those who belonged to the party of the Sadducees were jealous of the apostles? (Hint: in **Acts 5:16**, where are people coming to Jerusalem not to see what is going on)?

Verse 18:

- So _____ arrested the apostles and _____ them _____ the public _____.
- **Questions:**
 - What did the high priest and the Sadducees do to the apostle? _____
 - Where did they put the apostles? _____

Verse 19-20:

- But _____ angel of the _____ opened the doors of _____ jail during the night, _____ them out, and said,
- "_____ and stand in _____ temple, and _____ the people _____ about this life."?
- **Questions:**
 - What did this angel of the Lord open? _____
 - When did this angel of the Lord open the jail doors? _____
 - What did this angel of the Lord instruct the apostles to do?
 - Go and _____.
 - And tell _____.
 - What "life" do you think the angel of the Lord is referring to? _____
- Write out **Mark 16:15** - _____

Verse 21:

- _____ this, they _____ the temple _____ daybreak and began _____ teach.
- **Questions:**
 - Where did they enter after they heard the angel of the Lord's instructions? _____
 - What time of day was it? _____
 - What did the apostles begin to do? _____
- Look back at **Acts 4:29-30** and write it here: _____

Note: God answered that **Acts 4:29-30** prayer and as God moved through them they became braver to speak without fear.

Day 5 (Acts 5:22-24)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 5** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

22 But when the servants got there, they did not find them in the jail; so they returned and reported, **23** “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing in front of the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” **24** As the captain of the temple police and the chief priests heard these things, they were baffled about them, wondering what would come of this.

Verse 22:

- _____ when the _____ got there, they did _____ find them _____ the jail; so _____ returned and reported.
- **Questions:**
 - What happened when the servants got to the jail? _____
 - What did the servants do then since they didn't find them in the jail?

Verse 23:

- “We _____ the jail securely locked, _____ the guards standing in _____ of the doors, but _____ we opened _____, we found _____ one inside.”
- **Questions:**
 - How did the servants find the jail? _____
 - Where were the guards? _____
 - What did they find when they opened up the jail doors? _____

Verse 24:

- As _____ captain of the _____ police and the chief priests _____ these things, they were baffled _____ them, wondering _____ would come of this.
- **Questions:**
 - Who were heard this with the captain of the temple police? _____
 - What was the captain of the temple police and the chief priests' reaction? _____
 - What were they wondering? _____

As we progress further into **Acts 5** and beyond, we will see the persecution of Christians increase. Threats will intensify and the church will begin to do exactly what Jesus told them would happen.

Write out **Acts 1:8** - _____

According to **Acts 1:8**, where did Jesus say that they would be His witnesses? _____

This is what will happen eventually as a result of the persecution of the church. The church will spread.
Looking ahead, write out **Acts 8:1** - _____

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church” Tertullian

We will finish up Acts 5 next week.