

Acts 5 “Why Lie?”
Acts 4:32- Acts 5:11
June 22, 2025

Acts 4:32-37

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

When God is moving, resistance can come from within.

One heart and soul.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

7 “If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, 8 but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

Acts 5:1-11

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.” 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” 9 But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” 10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

God is more concerned about the character of His community than it's seating capacity?

What is a lie?

Joshua 7:10-11

10 The Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings.

"Israel has sinned."

Under valuing the gospel.

Hebrews 13:5

5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Proverbs 29:25

25 The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.

Ephesians 4:25

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Falsehood always ruins fellowship.

1. Value honesty more than perfection.
2. The lie is first a sin against God.
3. Want healing for the person about to share.
4. With truth should also come grace.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- When was the last time someone's generosity surprised you?
- Read Acts 4:32-37. What do you think is special about this passage? Why do you think one of the gospel's expressions is generosity? Is it still possible for the modern church to function in this way? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God's discipline was so severe in Acts 5? Do you think this kind of discipline is still part of our relationship with God?
- Discuss the idea that falsehood ruins fellowship? Have you ever seen friendships ruin because of lies and falsehood?
- Why might truth and honesty be so important at this moment in the life of the early church?
- When are you tempted to lie? When are you inclined to be honest and vulnerable? How does the gospel turn us more and more into truth tellers?
- What is one way for your Life Group to become more honest and open?