

THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST



Week Six - Generosity & Trust

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

This week's text is a hard story to swallow and seems so out of place in the New Testament, and especially to our culture. However, it is meant to shockingly awake us to the holiness of God and the call to trust Him — and the reality that when we trust in anything other than God it leads to death.

- **Big Idea:** The generosity of God calls us to trust Him with our generosity

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

- **Gifts Given**

What has been your favorite gift you ever received? How did you enjoy it? Have you ever shared it with someone else?

Today we'll hear a story of a man named Ananias, which means 'Given from God'. But listen for how Ananias uses the things God gave him...

Sing Together

Story - from Acts 4:32-5:11

All of the new believers and followers of Jesus were united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of King Jesus, and grace was on all of them.

And so it turned out that not a person among them was in need. Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the price of the sale to the apostles and made an offering of it. The apostles then distributed it out according to each person's need. For example, Joseph, who the apostles called Barnabas (*which means "Son of Encouragement"*), a Levite born in Cyprus, sold a field that he owned, brought the money, and made an offering of it to the apostles.

But a man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of land, secretly kept part of the price for themselves, and then brought the rest to the apostles and made an offering of it.

Peter said, *"Ananias, how did Satan get you to lie to the Holy Spirit and secretly keep back part of the price of the field? Before you sold it, it was all yours, and after you sold it, the money was yours to do with as you wished. So what got into you to pull a trick like this? You didn't lie to men, but to God."*

Ananias, when he heard those words, fell down dead. That put the fear of God into everyone who heard of it. The younger men there came and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

Not more than three hours later, his wife, knowing nothing of what had happened, came in.

Peter said, *"Tell me, were you given this price for your field?"*

"Yes," she said, "that was the price."

Peter responded, *"What's going on here that you connived to conspire against the Spirit of the Master? The men who buried your husband are at the door, and you're next."*

No sooner were the words out of his mouth than she also fell down, dead. When the young men returned they found her body. They carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

By this time the whole church and, in fact, everyone who heard of these things had a healthy respect and great fear for God.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Does it seem harsh that Ananias and Sapphira died?
- What did they do wrong? *You may want to steer the conversation toward these things:*
 - *Lying to God*
 - *Lying to the community*
 - *Using up the community's resources while not being honest about what they had*
(Remember, everything was being dispersed so they would have received from the things dispersed while also keeping extra money aside for themselves)
 - *Not trusting in God to provide, but feeling they needed to keep some aside for themselves*
(Think about when the Israelites tried to store up extra mana on the 6th day rather than trust God would provide on the sabbath)
- Why was this such a big deal to God and the community of believers?
- Why do we lie at times?
- How can we trust God with who we really are?
- How can we trust God with all of ourselves and all of our possessions?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You that You care for us and provide for us. Help us to always remember our need for You to provide and not be fooled into trusting ourselves or anything else. Help us to give all to You. In Jesus' name, amen.
- **Craft:**
 - Use the word search attached
 - OR use the 'Ways to be Generous' sheet attached

BLESS Activity

For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

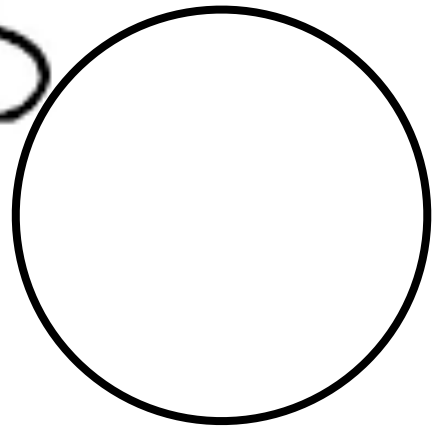
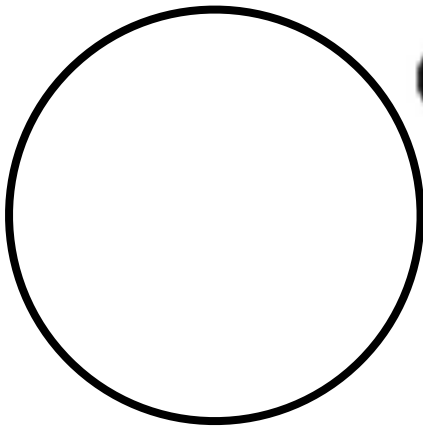
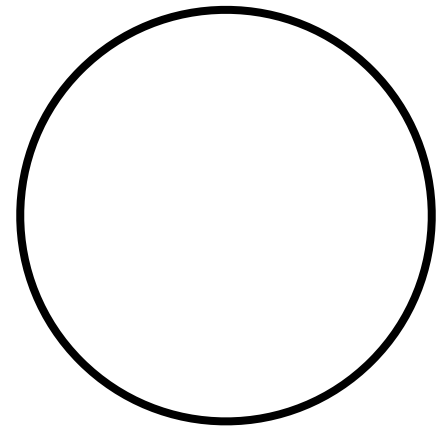
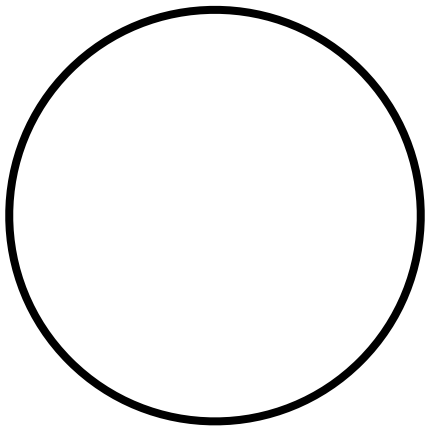
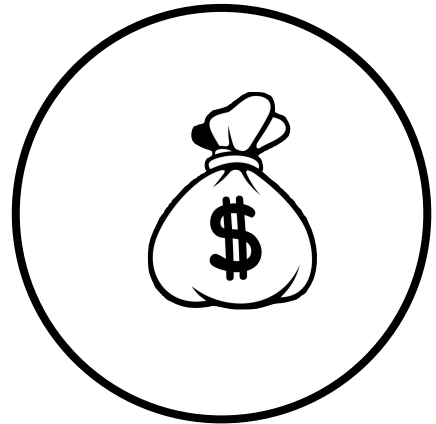
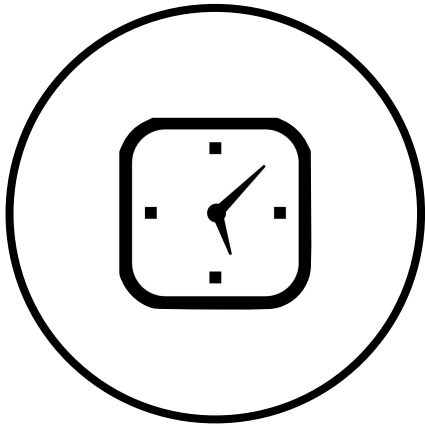
This week, focus on the **Speak** rhythm. Think about your words. Do you have trouble at times speaking the truth or misrepresenting yourself to make you look better? Pray for the Spirit to give you words of truth as you speak this week.

Find the hidden words related to the story

F	M	R	V	V	O	A	K	O	E	P	D	B	A	P
R	S	O	A	E	N	E	W	Z	O	I	W	R	I	E
Z	K	V	N	A	L	B	A	S	N	W	I	L	L	T
P	W	I	N	E	U	M	S	X	S	H	Z	T	V	E
D	R	I	R	Z	Y	E	P	X	P	P	O	Z	X	R
F	A	O	B	O	S	E	M	P	N	Y	I	L	D	D
S	U	Z	P	S	N	T	A	M	P	G	S	R	X	Q
O	V	P	I	E	A	S	P	H	U	Z	V	B	I	I
U	I	O	B	Q	R	F	D	C	B	Y	F	G	B	T
G	N	R	D	V	J	T	H	H	Y	S	E	S	P	E
S	M	S	Z	C	G	U	Y	U	U	Z	A	V	K	A
E	X	Q	T	V	N	V	I	R	F	J	R	K	P	B
D	E	A	T	H	R	R	Y	C	Q	T	V	E	O	Z
G	N	L	M	I	K	K	B	H	E	T	G	E	L	J
G	O	D	Z	C	J	E	K	N	A	I	R	P	U	J

Word Bank

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| PETER | FEAR | DEATH |
| GOD | ANANIAS | MONEY |
| POSSESSIONS | SAPPHIRA | PROPERTY |
| CHURCH | SPIRIT | KEEP |



What are some things God has given you that you can be generous with?