

THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

Acts 5:7-11

October 22, 2023

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA PART 2

1

In what way does Sapphira's lie "test the Spirit of the Lord" (v. 9)?

2

Peter's accusation of Sapphira is in the form of a question: "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?" He is basically asking, "How could you?" or even "How dare you?" What kind of emotions might Peter have been feeling to see two members of the church fail so badly? How do we react when we hear of the sin of those we thought were faithful Christians?

3

What is the significance of Sapphira falling at the feet of Peter as the feet of those who buried her husband come to the door (v.9b-10)? Compare this with the faithful members laying their offerings "at the feet" of the apostles in Acts 4:35.

4

Although the "young men" who bury Sapphira are unnamed, they have a hard task (v.10b). How does this demonstrate the ripple effect of the consequences of sin?

5

Why do Ananias and Sapphira die when their sin is exposed? Do they "die of shame"? Is this a punishment from God?

6

Should believers fear that sudden death may result from their sin? How should Christians think about the possibility of divine judgement?

7

Why would “great fear” come upon the church when they hear the story of Annanias and Sapphira (v. 11)? Is this a healthy reaction?

8

Have you seen consequences of sin that have inspired “great fear” in the body of believers? How did God use that circumstance?

