

Opener:

Last we asked: What is one way you helped bring about healing to someone? How did that go this past week?

Read and discuss:

1. What are your thoughts on how the early church dealt with money? Have you ever been the beneficiary of someone's financial gift?
2. Have you ever felt of one heart and mind, or shared possessions with your church or a small group, family, or some sort of team? If yes, what was that like?
3. The sin of Ananias and Sapphira was not necessarily greed but deceit. In what ways have you seen deceit have a deathly effect on a family, a group, or a church?
4. When have you been tempted or guilty in your life to "hold back" from God?
5. "Great fear" seized the early church after Ananias and Sapphira died. Have you experienced the "fear of the Lord?" How could the fear of the Lord be a healthy thing?
6. We can live radically for Christ in many different ways (e.g. radical generosity, hospitality, honesty, etc.). In what way might you be described as living radically?
7. One way to live is to be radically honest and transparent. What would be the benefit of allowing others to see your shortcomings? How might it encourage others? How might it shape you?

For next week, think about ways you can live radically for Christ in generosity, hospitality, or honesty and take steps to do it!

Prayer:

As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

- > Prayers of healing for Jim Baldauf.
- > Prayers of comfort for Mike and Sandy Nolan and Scott and Jenni Nolan in the death of Mike's brother and Scott's uncle.
- > Pray for the Women's Great Banquet happening this weekend in our building.
- > Pray for the Kentucky and Mexico short term mission teams as they depart this week.

Info for your group:

- > **Volunteers are needed for Trunk or Treat at ZPC on Oct 29.**
- > **Shepherd Community Center needs volunteers for their fall celebration on Oct 31.**
Visit zpc.org/current_opportunities for more information.

Leader's Notes:

When we read Acts 4:32-37, we tend to focus on how the people sold possessions and gave money to the church. The more amazing fact was that the apostles continued to share that Jesus had risen from the dead (Acts 4:33). When we believe the radical truth of the resurrection and don't lose the wonder of that fact, we are more likely to live radically in other ways. We can be more honest (Ananias and Sapphira weren't honest). We can have more hospitality and generosity and live more passionately knowing that Jesus not only died for our sins, but then rose from the dead to show he was God!

[Question 1] The early church certainly lived differently with money. They lived communally – sharing possessions, or selling land, and giving money to the church. This can be very strange, but when your leader defeated death, you can live more radically. Today, the church shares the gifts of its members in more programmatic ways such as local and global missions, and community assistance funds to those in need.

[Question 2] Our hope is that with your home group, you can develop a safe place to share prayer, hopes, dreams, needs – in order to be of one heart and mind for God. Sharing life together will never be perfect, but can be really good, and can be better than going through much of life alone.

[Question 3] Let your group share openly here. You may have to share first as the leader or wait for someone to give an example. Try to steer people away from gossip by limiting the naming of names, but realize the actual effect of deceit through actual stories.

[Question 4] We might hold back: Heart, time, money, hurts, or sin. We may hold back from God how we really feel about something in our hearts. We might also be tempted to hold back giving of our time or money. Bad experiences and unconfessed sin might also keep us from God. If we can go to God with our feelings, our pain, and even unconfessed sin, he is faithful and just and will forgive us (1 John 1:9).

[Question 5] The Bible says that we should fear the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. It can be healthy to have a great respect for God – who is the Creator and Giver of Life. He is responsible for our very lives, and is gracious and compassionate. We can respond with love and praise and thanks to the God who can handle our cares and fears.

[Question 6] Help your group to think of some practical ways they have lived, or can live, with radical giving, inviting, or honesty. Maybe even brainstorm ways to give away money or things or invite someone in a way that is radical and honoring to God.

[Question 7] We can also have radical honesty. We should not share honest opinions which hurt or demean others. However, we can share honestly our struggles or doubts or questions, which can help others to share their doubts and struggles. Often sharing struggles leads to prayer, help, and healing. Sharing doubts and questions can lead to learning and trusting God more.