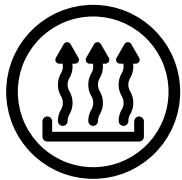




# ACTS: THE STORY CONTINUES



## WARM-UP

Has there ever been a time when you've been impacted by someone's generosity?

*Pray for your time together as a group.*

### ACTS 4:32-37 (NIV)

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. 36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.



How does generosity of some have the ability to impact the church as a whole?



The generosity and graciousness of God towards us leads us to be generous and gracious towards others. When is it easier to be generous? When is it hard?



At Hope we often talk about giving in the context of the 3 Ts: time, treasure, and tickers (hearts). What are ways we can be generous with our time, treasure and tickers?

### **ACTS 5:1-10 (NIV)**

1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. 2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. 6 Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

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

9 Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.



How did Ananias and Sapphira miss the point of generosity?



These deaths can feel a bit extreme, but let's take a deeper look. God ended the lives of two people who were focused on their own glory over His glory. What might this communicate to us about what will ultimately kill us/has killed us?



Vs 11 states "Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.". Why do you think they were afraid? And what do these events teach us about grace?



Ananias and Sapphira lacked integrity with their generosity. What are other areas of church life where we could potentially fall into lacking integrity?

### Optional Activity

Set a timer for 5-10 minutes and individually find/search or create a meme for some part of the passage at <https://imgflip.com/memegenerator>. Take time to share your memes with the group or in small groups!

## DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- How can you allow God's grace to work through you in the area of generosity?
- Are there any areas of your life where you desire integrity? How can you depend on God more in these areas? How can we help as a community?