

# The Community of Believers

## Lesson #20

### Acts 4:32 - 5:11

#### The New Community - Acts 4:32-35

1. Peter and John's arrest and release strengthened this new community of believers. In prayer, they asked for boldness to continue the ministry of Jesus. God answered by pouring out the Holy Spirit. What was the result of this? (Acts 4:32a)
2. How did that affect their thinking? (Acts 4:32b)
3. How did that translate into action?
  - Acts 4:32b
  - Acts 4:34a
  - Acts 4:34b-35
4. Those early days of the community were filled with great joy. Review what was taking place within that community.
  - How did the majority of people in Jerusalem view them? (Acts 2:47a)
  - What was the general attitude of those within the community? (Acts 4:32a)
  - What was the focus of the community? (Acts 2:42)

#### Barnabas, Ananias & Sapphira - Acts 4:36 - 5:11

5. However, even among this new community of believers not all hearts were pure. Luke gave two contrasting examples of some of those within the community. His first was of a man named Joseph. Using Acts 4:36:
  - What tribe of Israel was Joseph from? (For a complete list of tribe names see Numbers 13:4-15)

- Where was his home?
  
  - The apostles called him “Barnabas.” What does that name mean?
6. What did Luke say that Barnabas had done which may have been part of the reason for the name change? (Acts 4:37)
  
  7. Luke’s second example was of a husband and wife named Ananias and Sapphira. What did they “also” do? (Acts 5:1)
  
  8. What was the difference between Barnabas’ action and that of this couple? (Acts 5:2)
  
  9. Peter, filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, recognized their deception. In Acts 5:3:
    - Who came to Peter first?
  
    - Whom did Peter say had filled his heart?
  
    - To whom did Peter say that he had lied?
  
  10. Knowing they had kept some of the money from themselves, what questions did Peter ask? (Acts 5:4a & b)
  
  11. The answer to both questions was “yes.” Peter then asked this third question, “*What made you think of doing such a thing?*” What else did he say? (Acts 5:4d)
  
  12. How did God judge this man? (Acts 5:5a)
  
  13. What was the effect among those in the community who heard about Ananias? (Acts 5:5b)

14. What happened immediately after the conversation between Ananias and Peter? (Acts 5:6)
  
15. Verse 7 says, *“About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.”* What did Peter ask Sapphira? (Acts 5:8a)
  
16. As leader of this new community of believers, Peter had to deal quickly and decisively with this first internal threat. What did he say she had done? (Acts 5:9a)
  
17. What else did he say to her? (Acts 5:9b)
  
18. What happened next? (Acts 5:10)
  
19. What effect did that have on this new community of believers? (Acts 5:11)
  - What is the new name given to this community of believers?