

Note: Chapter 4 ends with an introduction to Barnabas, who becomes a traveling companion of St. Paul in later chapters. Barnabas was a Levite which means he was of member of the clerical clan of Levi. He was a native of Cyprus, spoke Greek, and was familiar with the Septuagint, referred to as the Greek Old Testament. When he was introduced, he was a resident in Jerusalem with other Christian believers. He sold a piece of his land, and gave the proceeds to the apostles. (Acts 4:36-37; 9:27)

1. How did the sale of property of Barnabas differ from that of Ananias and Sapphira? (Acts 4:37; 5:1-3)
2. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira, and what were the consequences? (Acts 5:1-11)
3. *Challenge:* Can you suggest why Luke would have included this gruesome story of Ananias and Sapphira at such length and in great detail, especially after the inspiring story of Barnabas and others at the end of the chapter? (Acts 2:42-47)
4. Acts just hints at the “many signs and wonders that were done among the people through the apostles.” (Acts 5:12)
 - a. Are the “people” referred to here just the believers, or non-believers as well? (Acts 5:15-16)
 - b. *Challenge:* How does this compare with Jesus’ ministry and followers?
5. How do we know by their customary meeting place that the apostles still saw themselves as faithful Jews? (Acts 5:12)
6. What was the motive for the high priest and the Sadducees for arresting and imprisoning the apostles? (Acts 5:17)
7. What did the angel of the Lord command the apostles to do after their escape? (Acts 5:19-20)
8. What do you think was the main concern of the high priests and the Sadducees regarding the teachings of the apostles? (Acts 5:27-33)
9. Upon the recommendation of Gamaliel, the Jewish leaders did not kill the apostles.
 - a. Who was Gamaliel? (Acts 5:34; 22:3; See also Handout Gamaliel)
 - b. What was the warning to the Sanhedrin by Peter? (Acts 5:35, 38-39)
 - c. What punishment did the apostles receive? (Acts 5:40)
10. The Council gave the apostles a warning. (Acts 5:40)
 - a. How well did the apostles obey the command of the Council? (Acts 5:42)
 - b. What was the apostles’ unusual reason for rejoicing? (Acts 5:41)