



LESSON 76 SKIT

Principle: Dangers of Greed.

Bible Character(s): Ananias and Sapphira

Scripture Reference: Acts 4:32-5:11



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Acts 4:32-5:11. This

passage opens illustrating the community God created for believers in His kingdom, to be united in fellowship with one another, providing for all those in need. An incident of abuse of this community reveals God's displeasure of sin and His just nature, as well as the presence of Satan. Ananias and Sapphira deceptively hold back a portion of their gift to the church, after claiming to give the full amount. Their sin was not keeping part of their gift, for they had the freedom to keep it all if they pleased, but their deception and vain desire to appear charitable was the sin. Their sinful behavior threatened the unity of the fellowship of the church. Through the Holy Spirit in Peter, Ananias and Sapphira face fatal consequences for their sin when God's judgment comes down on them. We receive a healthy fear of God's displeasure of sin and discipline, as well as a reverent awe of God's presence from this story. This lesson may generate some questions from your campers, as well as some fear as they see how God dealt with Ananias and Sapphira's sin. God is very gracious to us. He was also very gracious to the early church. God protected the early church from Ananias and Sapphira's sin. Here is an excerpt from an article on our passage for today:

"...their (Ananias and Sapphira) deaths appear to be a very harsh and merciless punishment, but it was crucial from the start to eliminate any doubt that God could be deceived or even tolerate deceit. The result of the deaths was that the entire community recognized the seriousness of the presence of God in their midst." (Hedging Bets: A Theological Reading of Acts 4:32-5:11 by Kevin Beck, Aug. 26, 2004)

How do you respond to how God dealt with Ananias and Sapphira? Do you have a hard time understanding His punishment for them for the sake of the early church and for the sake of the purity of the Gospel? Spend a few minutes in prayer, asking God to help you understand His heart with regard to sin. Examine how your heart needs to change so you do not suffer from greed in your own life.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

1) Run-through/Prayer

Run-through order of service (assigned parts, transitions, slides for music and skit, video if applicable, etc), assign door greeters, pray, mic check

2) Welcome Cabins

3) Intro Song

4) Camp Competition

A Colorful Sort

This competition involves everyone. Give each cabin a cup of 50 small, colorful items (pony beads, Legos, etc). Explain that as a group, they must separate the items into separate color piles on their rug. When they are finished, everyone must stand up. The first cabin to finish wins the Camp Banner for the week. (Please have camp counselors make sure ALL items are put back into their cup for the next service.)

5) Worship Set

Worship Connector

How many of you have things that you would never want to give away? (Allow responses.) They may be things that are really important to you, or things that make you really happy. Have you ever thought about where those things came from? They were probably given to you by your parents, relatives, or friends. But did you know that in those acts of giving, those things really come from God? In fact, everything we have is given to us by God because He loves us and provides us with what we need. If God gives us everything we have, then shouldn't we show others His love by sharing and giving to others? If you believe and trust in God, you should give to others out of a heart that desires to share God's love. Think about how you can obey God's command to love others, and how you can live a life of giving instead of wanting.

6) Skit

Jesus Gives Real Life

ProPresenter:

None

Characters:

Staff Member #1

Staff Member #2

Staff Member #3: Ape/Gorilla (Staff Member in gorilla suit, with a staff shirt and shorts to look like a camp staff member.)

Props:

Chocolate candy bars (2 bags, plus 1 per cabin – can be reused each service)

Plastic/paper bags (3 total: two filled with candy bars; one filled with only wrappers)

Script:

Before coming to Big Group, coaches should give the cabin leader for each class a chocolate candy bar to bring to Big Group. They should be instructed to hold onto the candy bars until instructed further.

Staff Member #2 repeats a lot of what Staff Member #1 says. The principle of this skit is a difficult one to grasp. The repetition is designed to help the children process the principle.

(Staff Member #1 and Staff Member #2 come to the stage holding bags. They set the bags on the stage.)

Staff Member #1: Okay...I think this is everything.

Staff Member #2: I think the new staff member, Ape, is bringing more.

Staff Member #1: (To the campers) Hi everyone! We're doing a little work for the Camp Director. He asked us to collect chocolate candy bars from every staff member. We're donating them to the children's hospital in town. The children's hospital asked for donations for a party they're planning for some of the patients. We've been all over campus this morning collecting candy.

Staff Member #2: Oh, some of your leaders have candy to donate, too. Can we pick out two campers to collect the candy and bring it to the stage to add to this pile? (Pick two campers. Give a minute for the collection. Some of the campers will see the candy and ask for some. Your response should be: "It does look good, but this candy is going to the children's hospital.") Wow! That's a lot of candy. This should help the hospital with the party. Thank you for your help.

Staff Member #1: Chocolate is my favorite. It's hard to give up my chocolate candy stash.

Staff Member #2: I know. I was a little tempted to keep a few candy bars for myself. It was hard to give up every single candy bar. But, the Camp Director asked us to help the hospital and as hard as it was, I do want to help.

Staff Member #1: We're waiting on Ape to bring the candy he's collected. I'm sure he'll be here any minute. But, before he gets here, I'll go ahead and start the Bible story.

Staff Member #2: Great idea.

Staff Member #1: Our story is from Acts 4 and 5. Do you guys remember just a few weeks ago we were talking about the first church? They met together to pray and worship. They shared everything.

No one went without. Well, that's where our story starts today. The Bible tells us that the new Christians were of one mind and one heart. They shared everything. They gave of what they had to help others.

Staff Member #2: Here at Camp Grace, that would be like if you were at the concession stand and needed a nickel to have enough to buy a soda, I would give you a nickel. Or, if your fishing rod got caught in a tree and I had an extra one, I would give it to you.

Staff Member #1: The early Christians even sold land they owned and brought the money from the sale to the apostles so that when people were in need, there would be money to help them.

Staff Member #2: That must have been a difficult thing to do. If you had money from selling your own land, it would be hard to just give it away. You know, it was hard enough for me to give away candy bars. I bet it was hard for you guys (to the campers.), too. You had to watch all of that candy being passed over your heads and just within your reach. I'm sure you were tempted to grab a chocolate bar. Can you imagine how difficult it would be to give away a lot of money?

Staff Member #1: I imagine that it was a difficult thing to do. But, the early Christians knew that the money and possessions they had come from God. God gave them everything they had. They were giving back to Him from what He had given them. See, God gives to us in love so that we can share that love with others by giving to them.

Staff Member #2: I never thought about it that way. Everything I have came from God. He gave to me with love. If He asks me to give to others, I should do it without question because that's a way to share His love with others.

Ape: (Enters with a bag.)

Staff Member #1: Hi Ape! Thanks for coming.

Staff Member #2: **Wow! You've been collecting candy bars for a while. You must have tons.** (Take the bag from Ape and pour it onto the stage. Pause in disbelief. Pick up the wrappers and inspect them.) **Ape, the candy is gone. What happened?**

Ape: (Shrug.)

Staff Member #2: I know what happened.

Ape: (Look surprised and afraid.)

Staff Member #2: You must have set the bag down and a bear got into it.

Ape: (Nod vigorously in agreement.)

Staff Member #2: That must have been frightening. You must be shaken. Here, sit down and get yourself together, Ape. (Put a hand on Ape's shoulder with sympathy.)

Staff Member #1: **Wow! That's too bad, Ape. A bear got them, huh.** (With a little skepticism.) It would have been so nice to add all that candy to the collection. While you compose yourself after your... uh... bear encounter, I'll continue with the Bible story. We were talking about how difficult it would be to give up money from the selling of land to help those in need. There was a man named Ananias who sold his land to help those in need, but then ended up keeping half for himself and lying about it. He figured no one would know the difference, but really had a greedy heart. When Peter found out, he asked Ananias why he had held back part of the money. Peter explained to Ananias that he didn't just lie to men, but he lied to God. Ananias heard this and died.

Staff Member #2: **He died?!**

Ape: (Gulp.)

Staff Member #1: **He did.** His wife, Sapphira, lied about the sell of the land and she died, too. It was very sad that they died. God punished them for lying to Him and to the people. They were greedy. They wanted to keep money for themselves and they lied about it.

Staff Member #2: **That's harsh.** But, God does punish our sin. They were greedy and they lied. God punished them with death.

Staff Member #1: **You know,** the thing is that Ananias and Sapphira were just like us.

Staff Member #2: **How were they like us?**

Staff Member #1: **Well,** our Camp Director asked us to give this candy to help the hospital. We both admitted that we really wanted to keep some for ourselves. It was hard to give it up. I'm sure Ananias and Sapphira were feeling the same way about the money from the land they sold.

Ape: (Grunts a few sentences.)

Staff Member #2: **Well,** sure, Ape, we'll listen. You say you have a confession?

Ape: (Grunts a few sentences.)

Staff Member #2: **There was no bear? You wanted the candy?** (Ape should nod appropriately here.) **You were only going to eat one, but then, you couldn't stop?**

Staff Member #1: **Thanks for telling the truth, Ape.** That was a hard thing to do. You're not alone. We were tempted to eat the candy, too. We all face temptations when it comes to giving up our possessions. Satan doesn't want us to give from what God gives us because he doesn't want us to share God's love with others. We can pray to resist the temptation so that the devil will flee from us. We can remember that everything we have is a gift from a God who loves us. He wants to share His love with others.

Staff Member #2: You're right. It's easier to give when I remember God gives to me. He wants me to give to others to share His love with others. Hey, Ape, let's load up this candy and take it the hospital.

The children might be so distracted by the gorilla that a closing prayer might not be the best idea. Use your own judgment.



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