



TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for June 26 – July 2, 2022

WEEKLY READINGS: Acts 4:32-37; Acts 5; Genesis 3:6; Joshua 7:21; Matthew 6:24; I Peter 5:5-11

ACTS IN 30 Week 5: *Blessing and Testing in the New Kingdom Community*

"We have now seen that, if the devil's first tactic was to destroy the church **by force from without**, his second was to destroy it **by falsehood from within** (through the telling of Ananias and Sapphira's deception). [Later in Acts 5:12-16] Luke is about to record the second wave of persecution by which the devil attempted to annihilate the church (by force). As he does so, he will highlight various developing attitudes, especially 'the deepening jealousy and antagonism of the Sadducees, the moderation of the Pharisees, and the increasing joy and confidence of the Christians. But before this he (Luke) refers to the fact that the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people.'" - John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Acts: The Spirit, the Church & the World*

FOCUS: READ Acts 4:32-37 The New Kingdom Community Flourishes in Strength and Purity

"There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need." (Acts 4:34-35)

BIG IDEA 1 – The end of Acts 4 sets up the context for what happens in Acts 5. Acts 4:32 says that all the believers (numbering close to 10,000 at this point) were *"of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common."* **Poverty was erased** as unity & purity permeated their community.

Q1- This supernatural sense of generosity was the result of the Holy Spirit's leadership in their lives. What are some ways that the Lord leads you to demonstrate Spirit-led generosity in your life today?

FOCUS: Acts 5:1-11 Hypocrisy and Falsehood Threaten the New Kingdom Community's Fellowship

*"How is it that you together have agreed to **test** the Spirit of the Lord?"* (Acts 5:9a)

BIG IDEA 2 – **Covetousness** can poison the purity in a community! In this disastrous story, a couple who sold property (as Barnabas did in Acts 4) lied to Peter when asked (under the guidance of the Holy Spirit) if they gave to the Lord the amount that the property was sold for. They lied to the Holy Spirit and fell dead on the same day. As Satan deceived Eve (Gen. 3:6) and Achan (Joshua 7:21) to **covet** something that the Lord forbid, now he deceived Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:3).

Q2- What does being covetous mean to you and how pervasive is it in our society today? What are some "remedies" for it?

FOCUS: I Peter 5:5-11 Be Humble, Stay Alert, and Stand Firm in the Faith

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. So, humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him and be strong in your faith." (I Peter 5:5-9a, NLT)

BIG IDEA 3 – The adversary of our soul – the devil – is constantly seeking ways to bring division, suspicion, envy and strife into our God-given relationships. The Apostle Peter urges believers to stay humble and always be aware of the devil because he is constantly seeking ways to deceive us each day. As believers, we have been given the power and authority in Jesus' Name to resist the devil, to overcome his temptations, and fight hard in faith to stay pure and protect our community.

Q3- It's interesting to note that Peter encourages believers to, "humble yourselves" (vs. 6) instead of worrying or being anxious about our status, recognition, or influence. What are some ways that you can take the initiative to stay humble?
