

The Truth–Loving King

Acts 4:32 – 5:11



Big Idea

Those in the early church shared everything. Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter to appear more generous than they were. They are judged and die.

Aim

To teach that we want to share our whole lives with our church family.
This will mean that we do not lie or pretend.

Review

Can the children remember:

- Who told Peter and John to stop speaking about Jesus?
[*Sanhedrin – Jewish religious leaders (Acts 4:15, 18)*]
- How did Peter respond?
['*Must we obey God or you?*' (Acts 4:31)]

Intro – masked

Talk about how masks can be a lot of fun and how we sometimes use masks to pretend to be something or someone other than we really are. The children may have seen some films where the evil villain uses a very realistic mask to trick people.

In today's true story from the Bible we will see what happened when some people in the early church pretended to be what they were not.

Story
Watch it

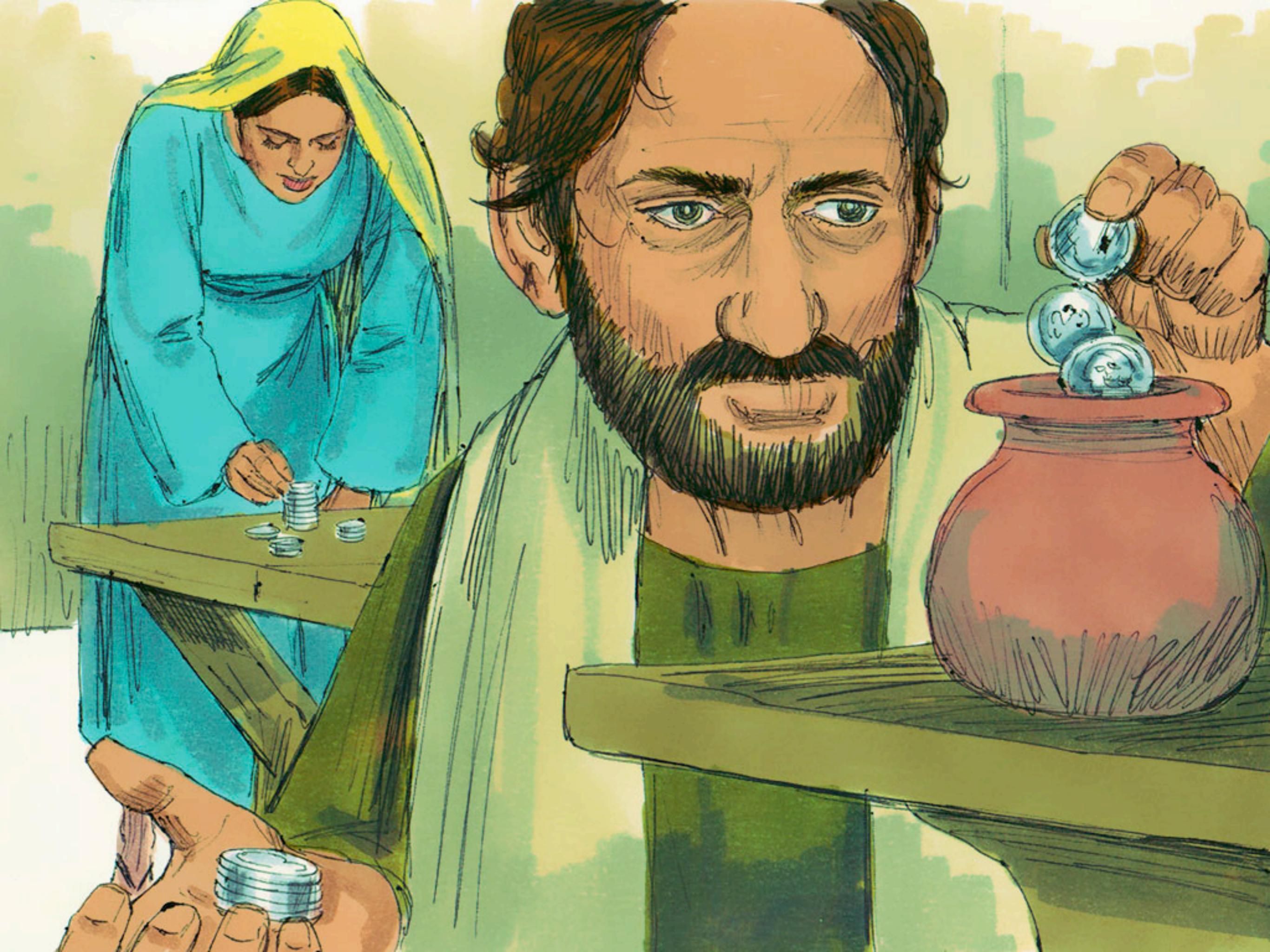
<https://youtu.be/OG22gKkJUdA>

Activity give it all away

We might think we can hide things from God, but he knows everything. To God, our lives are like the see-through container.

Our next section is about people who tried to hide their sin from God

**Story
Read it**

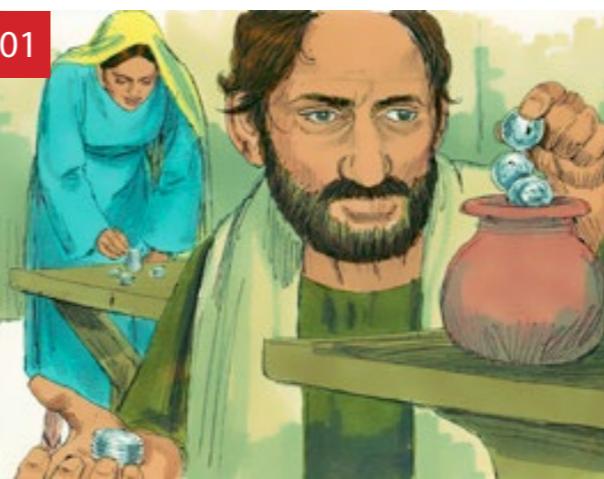








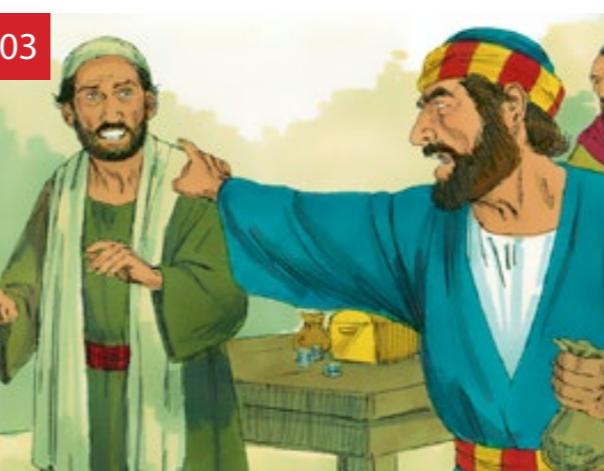
Many of the early Christians sold their possessions and gave all the money raised to help others in need. Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property they owned. However when they were paid they decided to keep some of the money but deceive others into thinking they had given it all to God.



Peter saw through their deceit and confronted Ananias. 'How is it that Satan has got you to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep some of the money for yourselves?' he asked.



'It was your money to do with as you wanted but why did you lie and say you had given it all? You have not only lied to us but also to God.'



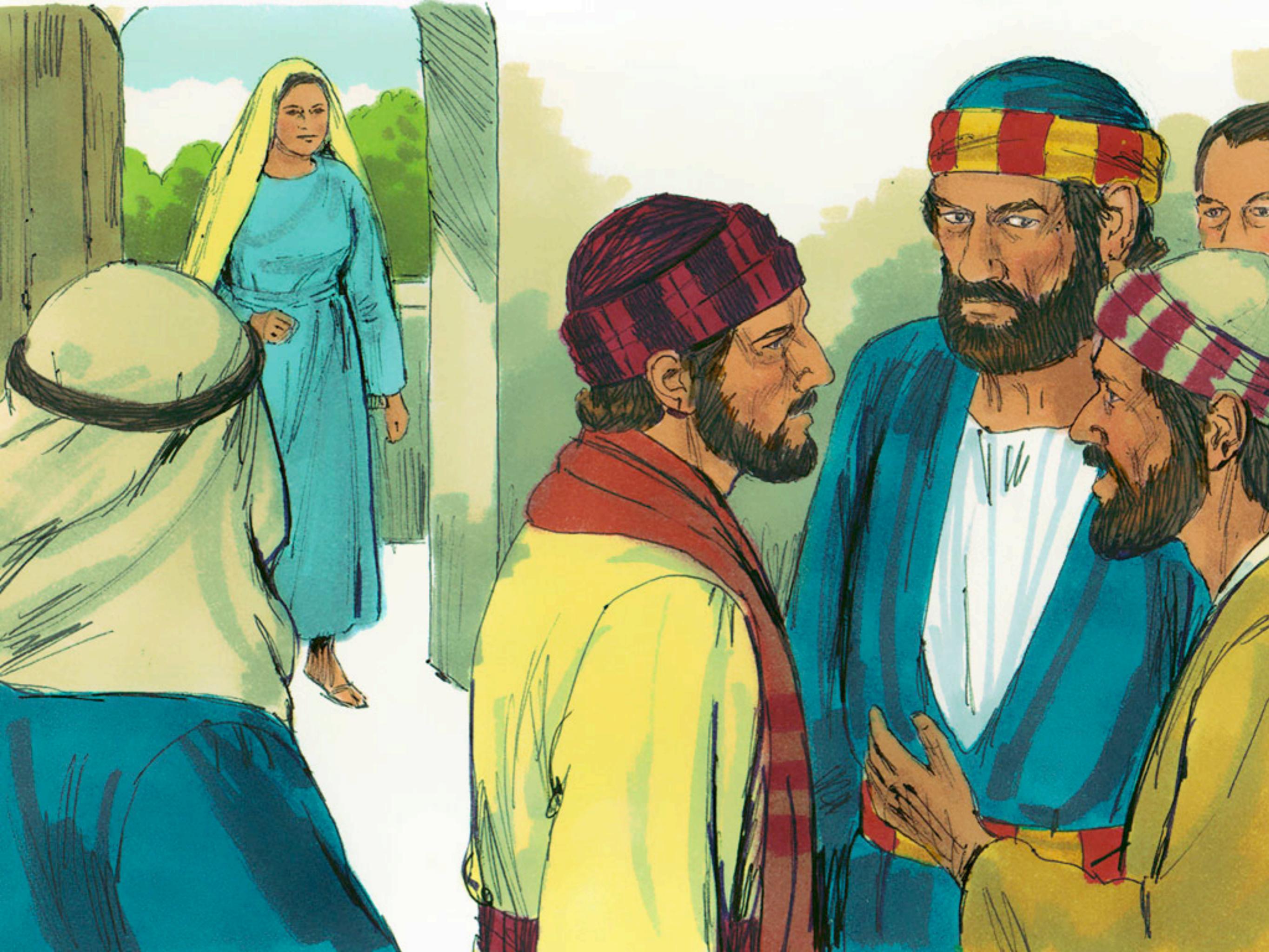
When Ananias heard this he fell to the ground and died. Some young men wrapped up his body, carried him out and buried him. When others heard what had happened they were very afraid.



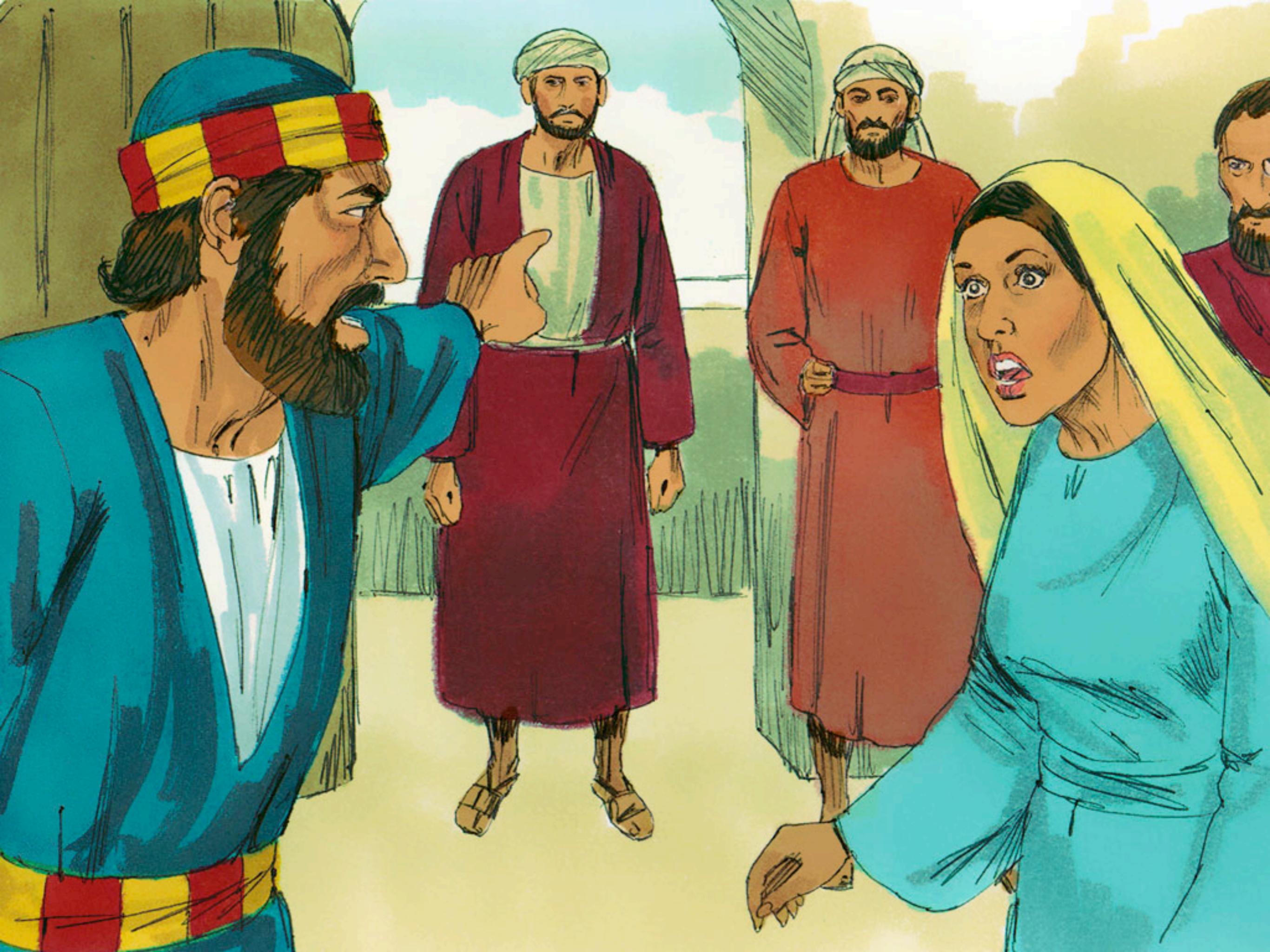
story
Watch it

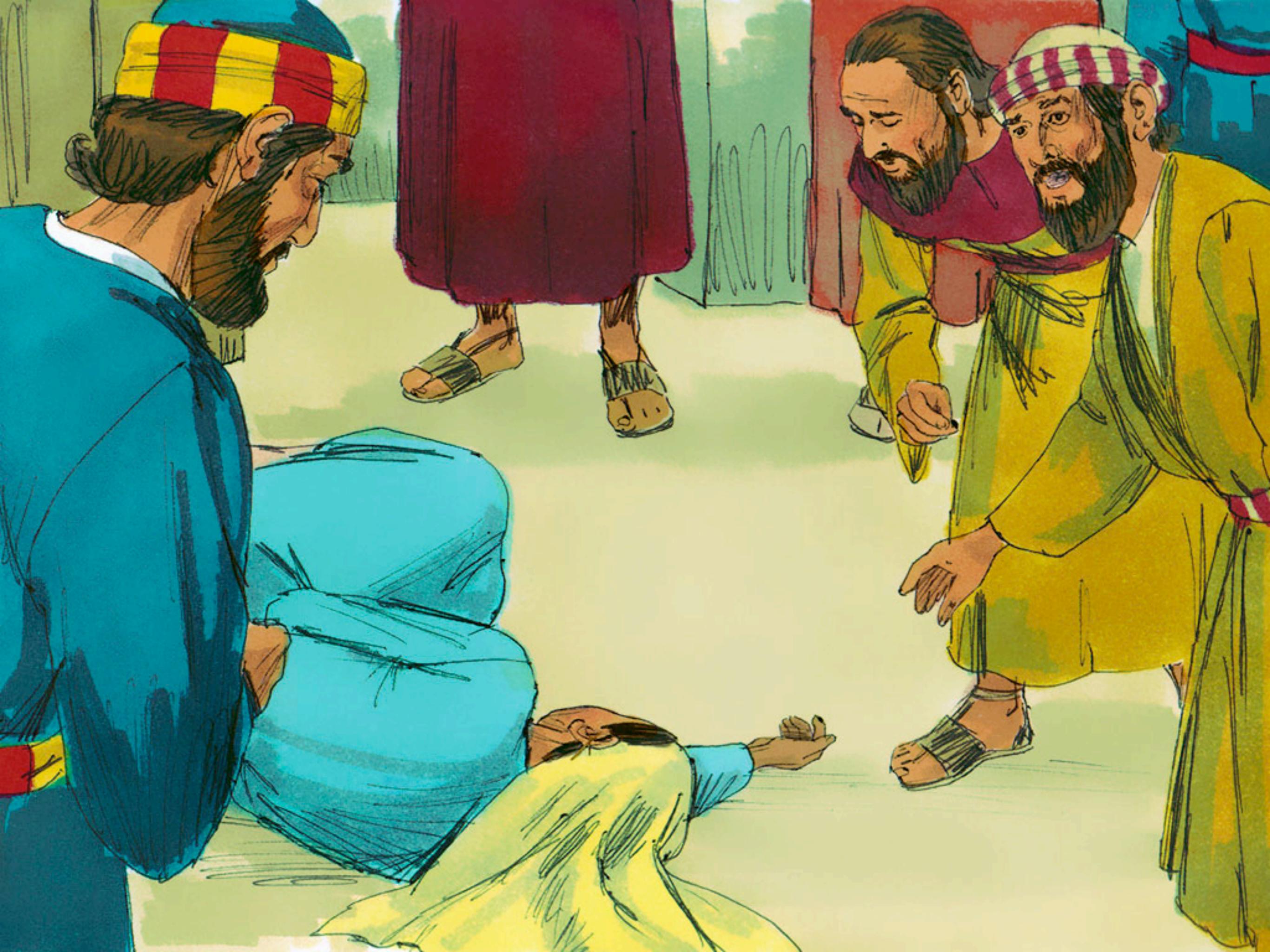
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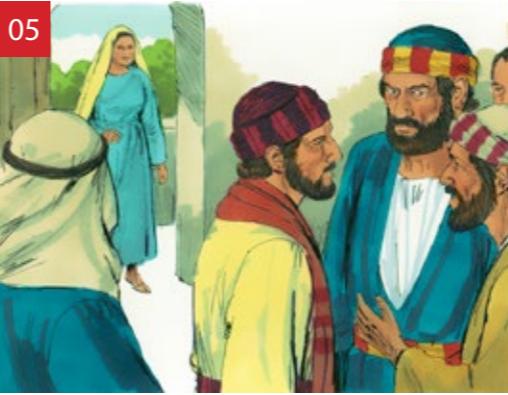
**Story
Read it**







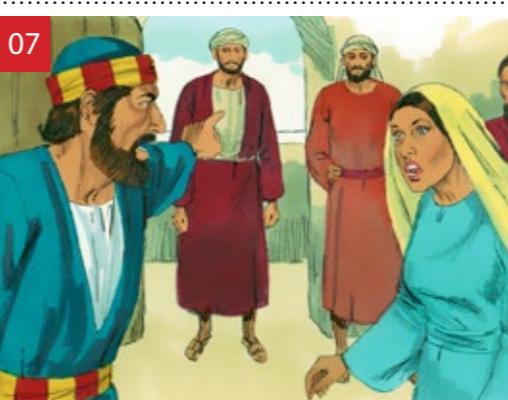




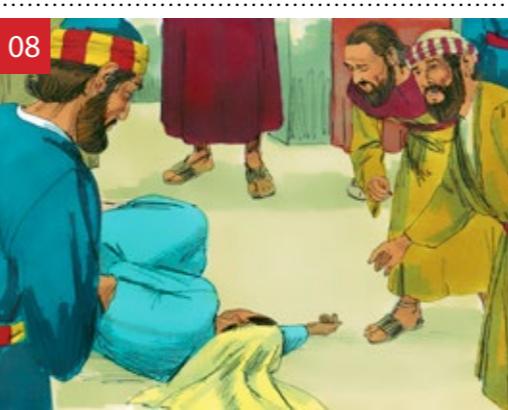
Three hours later Ananias's wife Sapphira returned home, unaware what had happened to her husband.



Peter asked, 'Is the money you gave the full amount you got for the land you sold?'
'Yes,' she lied. 'That is the price.'



'How could you both agree to deceive the Lord?' Peter demanded.
'The men who have just buried Ananias are at the door and they will carry you out as well.'



Immediately she fell to the floor and died. Her body was taken out and buried by the same men who had buried her husband.
The whole church was shocked and afraid when they heard how severely God had dealt with Ananias and Sapphira.

**Story
Watch it**

<https://youtu.be/2YuyQUibBu0>

Puzzle Game

What do we learn from this?

- When each team was only concerned about their own puzzle they kept pieces they didn't need. Because of this only one or neither team could possibly win. That's how the world normally works. People have more than they need while others never have enough.
- When each team shared with the other team, everybody was able to finish their puzzle. That's what the early church was like and what Barnabas did when he gave all the money he got from selling what he didn't need.
- When one person didn't give everything they didn't need and tried to hide it they spoiled the game. Ananias and Sapphira's lie about what they gave could have destroyed the trust in the church; that's why they were punished.

Watch it

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuLuSOPvjtg>

Sing it

<https://youtu.be/j-5BA8BhOwl>

<https://youtu.be/7JFjruVrrag>

https://youtu.be/7HSdeeCm8_g

- 1.What did the early church share? V32
- 2.What caused the believers to be so other person centred? V33
- 3.Were there any believers that were in need? V34
- 4.Did they just share the little things that they had? V34
- 5.Who sold a field and shared the money with those in need? V26
- 6.Who did the believers give the money to? V35
- 7.Why were the apostles the best ones to share out the money?
- 8.Who else sold land? V1
- 9.What did they do with the money from the sale of their land? V2
- 10.Was it wrong for Ananias to have kept some of the money?
- 11.What was it that they did that was wrong? v3
- 12.Who did Peter say they had lied to? V4
- 13.What happened to Ananias? V5
- 14.What question did Peter ask Sapphira in v8?
- 15.What happened to Sapphira? V10
- 16.How did the church respond when they heard about this? V11
- 17.What was the sin that Ananias and Sapphira were judged so harshly for?
- 18.What does their death teach us?
- 19.What does hypocrisy mean?
- 20.What does Acts 1:8 say?



We don't see people being struck for lying today but this story shows us how precious the church is to Jesus and how seriously he takes any attempt to undermine the unity of the church

Pray

Dear Heavenly Father

We thank you so much for the time we could spend in your Word this morning as a family. Thank you for the early church and for the example that they set for us. Please teach us to be like these early believers by sharing our whole lives with our church family.

We thank you that from this story we are able to see how precious the Church is to you. Please help us not to be hypocrites within our church by lying or pretending to be someone that we are not.

Please would you, through your Holy Spirit cause us to care for one another, especially at this time of lockdown.

Thank you that we belong to such a wonderful Church family - would you bless us all as we are not able to gather at this time. We long for when we can gather again. Please would you help us to still be caring for one another until we can meet again....Amen



Memory Verse

Acts 1:8 – *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth".*
[NIV84]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_olz0FcdWpM

You can load these up to the FB page or send to me via Whatsapp