

LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

citygroups

Spring 2023

Week of February 26th

Book of Acts

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Equip classes are going on!
- To the World Conference- March 3rd and 4th, RSVP on the church's website.

DISCUSSION FOCUS:

Read (Primary Text): Acts 4:32-5:11

Supporting Texts: Colossians 3:12-17; Mark 12:41-44

MAIN IDEA: A church unified around the Gospel is a church on mission, and it takes every member.

OBSERVE

Read Acts 4:32-35. What characteristics were being shown among the people of the early church that was unique to only them?

- Of one heart and mind
- Held everything in common
- Selfless and generous with their possessions
- Giving testimony about Jesus with great power

What does it mean for believers (here in Acts 4 and now) to be of “one heart and mind” ?

- Of one heart and mind means that they were all concentrated on Jesus and his heart and mind. Of course these people were in different situations and had different life experiences, however, they were unified in the sense of Christ being the center of their lives and them being fully devoted to the mission of spreading the Gospel. Any group of people can be of one mind and heart if they are committed to the work of the gospel.

Read Acts 4:36-37. What did Joseph (Barnabas) do with his personal possessions?

- Took his field, sold it, and laid the money at the Apostles feet.

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Read Acts 5:1-11. What action did Ananias and Sapphira commit that led to their rebuke and immediate death?

- They sold their piece of property, and lied about giving all of the proceeds when in reality they lied and kept part for themselves.

INTERPRET

Read Colossians 3:12-17. How does this passage from Paul's letter teach us how Christian community with Christ at the center will reshape how we live our lives?

Looking at 5:1-11 What does Peter's response, through the power of the Holy Spirit, show about the characteristics that God wants to see and not see in regards to generosity in the church?

- Peter asks why the couple lied to the Holy Spirit. He also asks why they planned these things in their hearts. This shows that giving and generosity is based, at the root, out of the heart. God cares about the condition of our hearts and if it is in sacrifice to him and his mission. We shouldn't give out of obligation or for admiration, but out of awe and adoration for the creator of the universe.

Read Mark 12:41-44. How does the widows gift relate to the Barnabas' gift in Acts on how our heart posture should be when we give?

Compare and contrast the attitude towards generosity of Barnabas, with that of Ananias and Sapphira.

- Barnabas sold his field and laid all his earnings at the feet of the apostles. Ananias and Sapphira, however, sell their possessions and keep some, but present this money to the apostles as if they gave their all. They had an attitude of giving for show and praise, instead of just giving out of their hearts. So, when we give, we should give out of joy in the Lord and sacrificing our finances to see the mission of the Lord go out.

APPLY

How should we think about generosity and coming alongside the needs of others in the body of Christ?

How has being a part of "Let's Go" helped or shaped the way you view being generous?

What do you think led Ananias and Sapphira to lie about their offering? How are we tempted to give like Ananias and Sapphira?

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City Groups exist as an extension of our Sunday gatherings, providing an environment for spiritual formation through intentional study, prayer, and fellowship, to equip Christ followers to make disciples.