

## What the story of Ananias and Sapphira can teach us . . .

1. When the Gospel really grips us, it loosens our grip on our STUFF and tightens our grip on PEOPLE.
2. God sees and cares intensely about what's happening on the INSIDE of our lives.
3. God is gracious in not giving us what we all DESERVE . . . yet.
4. Our enemy, Satan, wants to destroy Christ's CHURCH and His MULTIPLY MISSION.
5. God acts to PROTECT His church, mission and glory.



## Discipline in the Early Church!

Acts 4:32-5:16

Sunday, November 20, 2016

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*Here at Grace Central Coast, we're committed to "letting Biblical texts talk." Today we come to Acts 5 where we discover, amidst all the amazing things God is doing in the Early Church, the challenging story of Ananias and Sapphira . . . .*

## Why the story of Ananias and Sapphira bothers us . . .

1. We just don't read our bibles ENOUGH or we read them SELECTIVELY.
2. We have a vision of God is that is MALFORMED because we tend to CONSUME only the parts of God we like and are attractive to us.
3. We don't understand the GRAVITY of sin.



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### Connect Together

Colossians 3:16 instructs us: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Do this together as a group as you share your lives with another.

### Study God's Word Together

1. Here at Grace Central Coast we are committed to "letting Biblical texts talk." What does that mean and how is that reflected in our worship services and the way the Bible is taught in our church? What assumptions about the Bible underlie that commitment?
2. How did you "come under" God's Word in the text/message this week? What were your thoughts and feelings in response to this text/message?
3. Have someone in your group "story" Acts 4:32 - 5:16. Did this story of Ananias & Sapphira bother you at all? Why or why not? Without looking at the outline, what are some reasons we contemporary hearers are bothered by this story?

4. Why, when the Gospel really grips us, will it loosen our grip on our stuff and tighten our grip on people? How does that work? What does it mean for us if that's not happening?
5. To some degree we are all hypocrites like Ananias and Sapphira, pretending to be more than we are. What are some of the ways we do that? How can we confront and battle against hypocrisy in our lives?
6. Acts 5:3 informs us that Satan is active through the actions of Ananias and Sapphira to try to destroy the early church and its mission. How often do you consider the work of Satan in the church today? What are some ways that Satan might try to destroy the church or thwart its mission today?
7. Why in Acts 5, at this stage in the multiply mission, might God act to protect His church, mission and growth?

### Pray Together

As you pray for one another, pray for the purity and integrity of our lives and church for the continued multiplication mission of Jesus through us.