

# NEW LIFE ONE STUDIES



**Series: ‘You Are The Church’  
Week 8 Study Guide**

*Message:*

**“A Church That Won’t Be Stopped.”**

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## **SCRIPTURE**

<b>Main Text:</b>	<b>Other Text:</b>
<b>Acts 4:32–6:7</b>	<i>Matthew 16:18, John 16:33, Jeremiah 31:33, 1 John 1:9</i>

## **UNDERSTANDING THE STORY**

*(This section focuses on understanding what the text means —  
before jumping to what it means for us.)*

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**Read Acts 4:32–5:11**

**Main Idea:**

The church overcomes hypocrisy through authentic devotion to Jesus.

### **Commentary:**

As the early church continued to grow, God's grace was powerfully at work among believers. People generously shared their resources, cared for one another, and prioritized the mission of Jesus.

In contrast to this spirit of generosity, Ananias and Sapphira attempted to gain the appearance of spiritual devotion while secretly holding back part of their offering. Their sin was not keeping a portion of the money—it was pretending to be something they were not.

The story reminds us that God is more concerned with the condition of our hearts than outward appearances. Throughout Scripture, God consistently calls His people away from religious performance and into genuine relationship with Him.

The Holy Spirit was building a church marked by honesty, repentance, humility, and sincere devotion. God desires authenticity, not appearances.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What was the real issue with Ananias and Sapphira's actions?
2. Why is it tempting to focus on appearances instead of heart transformation?
3. What does this passage teach us about God's desire for authenticity?

### **Takeaway:**

*God desires authentic devotion and transformed hearts more than outward displays of religion.*

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**Read Acts 5:12–32**

**Main Idea:**

The church overcomes opposition by boldly obeying God.

**Commentary:**

As the apostles continued ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit, people were healed, lives were transformed, and many came to faith in Jesus.

The religious leaders became jealous and attempted to stop the movement by arresting the apostles. Yet even after being imprisoned, God miraculously freed them and instructed them to continue proclaiming the message of Jesus.

When questioned by the authorities, Peter and the apostles responded with remarkable courage: "We must obey God rather than human beings."

Their confidence was not rooted in personal strength but in their conviction that Jesus was alive and worthy of obedience.

The mission of God cannot be stopped by human opposition when His people remain faithful.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why were the religious leaders threatened by the apostles?
2. What gave the apostles courage to continue preaching?
3. What can we learn from their response to opposition?

**Takeaway:**

*When we remain focused on Jesus, we can boldly obey God even when facing opposition.*

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## ***Read Acts 5:33–42***

### **Main Idea:**

The church overcomes suffering by keeping its eyes on Jesus.

### **Commentary:**

The apostles faced increasing persecution for proclaiming the Gospel. They were beaten, threatened, and ordered to stop speaking about Jesus.

Yet instead of becoming discouraged, they left rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering for His name.

This response seems unusual from a worldly perspective, but the apostles understood that following Jesus would involve sacrifice. Their joy was not found in their circumstances but in their relationship with Christ.

Rather than retreating, they continued teaching and preaching day after day.

Their example teaches us that suffering does not stop God's mission. In fact, God often uses difficulty to strengthen His people and advance His Kingdom.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How did the apostles respond after being persecuted?
2. Why were they able to rejoice despite suffering?
3. How can suffering deepen our faith in Jesus?

### **Takeaway:**

*When we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can remain faithful even in difficult seasons.*

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## ***Read Acts 6:1–7***

### **Main Idea:**

The church overcomes internal challenges through wisdom, unity, and Spirit-led leadership.

### **Commentary:**

As the church grew, new challenges emerged. Some widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food, creating tension within the congregation.

Rather than ignoring the problem, the apostles addressed it with wisdom and humility. They appointed Spirit-filled leaders to oversee the ministry while remaining focused on prayer and teaching God's Word.

The early church recognized that healthy growth requires both spiritual vitality and wise organization.

By working together and keeping the mission central, the church was able to meet practical needs while continuing to advance the Gospel.

The result was greater unity, healthier ministry, and continued growth.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What challenge arose within the church?
2. How did the apostles respond to the problem?
3. Why is unity important in accomplishing God's mission?

### **Takeaway:**

*Spirit-led unity helps the church overcome challenges and remain focused on God's mission.*

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# MAKE IT PERSONAL

The story of the early church reminds us that opposition, challenges, and difficulties are not signs that God has stopped working. They are often opportunities for God to demonstrate His faithfulness and power.

The church in Acts faced hypocrisy, persecution, suffering, and internal conflict, yet God's mission continued moving forward because the believers kept their eyes on Jesus.

## Reflect:

1. Are there areas where God is inviting you into deeper authenticity and honesty with Him?
2. What opposition or challenges are you currently facing in your walk with Christ?
3. How can you respond with faith instead of fear when difficulties arise?
4. Where might God be calling you to help strengthen unity and serve others within the church?

## Key Truth:

*The church cannot be stopped when God's people remain devoted to Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and committed to His mission.*

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# LIVING IT OUT

Let this passage move you from reflection to action this week:

## Pursue Authentic Faith

Ask God to reveal any areas where appearances have become more important than genuine devotion.

## Obey God Courageously

Trust Him even when obedience feels difficult or unpopular.

### **Keep Worshiping Through Difficulty**

When challenges come, choose to focus on God's faithfulness rather than your circumstances.

### **Serve the Body**

Look for practical ways to meet needs, encourage others, and strengthen unity within the church.

### **Stay Focused on the Mission**

Remember that every believer has a role in helping others encounter Jesus.

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*For LifeGroups:*

## **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER**

Talk through these together:

1. What obstacle has God helped you overcome in your faith journey?
  2. Why do you think authenticity is so important in following Jesus?
  3. How have you seen God work through difficult circumstances?
  4. What gifts or abilities has God given you that can help strengthen the church?
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## **PRAY TOGETHER**

Thank God that His church continues to grow and advance through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ask God to help you walk in sincerity and authentic faith.

Pray for boldness to remain faithful when facing opposition.

Pray for unity within your church and for wisdom for leaders.

Ask God to reveal opportunities to serve others and participate in His mission.

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### **Final Thoughts:**

The early church faced obstacle after obstacle, yet nothing could stop what God was doing. Hypocrisy, persecution, suffering, and internal challenges all threatened to slow the mission, but the believers remained focused on Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The same is true today. God's church is not built on human strength, talent, or strategy. It is built by Jesus Himself. As we stay devoted to Him, walk in authenticity, serve one another, and boldly proclaim the Gospel, we can face every obstacle with confidence.

Jesus promised, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

The power is His. The mission is His. And through His Spirit, His church will continue moving forward.

