



ACTS

the story of the Church

Sermon Guide

WEEK 5

COVENANT COMMUNITY

Read: ACTS 4:32 - 5:11

Consider:

Focusing on ourselves is not always a negative thing. However, there is an extreme need for us to learn how to balance prioritizing self-care. This demands a level of selfishness in the sense that we have to say no to other good things for the sake of saying yes to caring for ourselves. At the same time, we must do everything we can to wage war against being self-centered. Self-care says, “I will be intentional about giving myself the time, space, and support I need to be healthy.” Self-centeredness says, “me above everything and everyone else at any cost.” The balance between self-care and self-centeredness is being in and consistently practicing covenant community with other believers.

Engage:

1. If you were a member of the church in Jerusalem, would you have felt betrayed by Ananias and Sapphira?
2. Was God unjust for killing them?
3. Are you currently sharing your gifts (non financial and financial) with

the church? Do you see this as beneficial? What would happen if you stopped sharing your gifts with the church?

4. Why is being in community so hard?

5. Have you ever experienced hurt from Christians you have been in community with? If so, share that and pray for healing for one another.

Practice:

1. **Confess:** Where in your life are you being self-centered? Where in your life do you need to care for yourself better?

2. **Give:** Find something in your home that you can give away to someone in need. Come to group next week ready to share what you gave away and to whom.

3. **Acknowledge:** Are there people in your life, church, community group that have been a blessing to you? If so, tell them! Tell them specifically how they have blessed you!

4. **Invite:** Encourage someone to come to church or to your group that you know needs to be in community with other Christians or that needs a place to hear the gospel that does not currently have one.

Apply:

1. If you are not a partner of Hope Fellowship, ask yourself why not? Consider becoming a partner.

2. Pray for church leaders as they have to address hard issues like Peter does with Ananias and Sapphira.

3. Do not violate the blessing of the intimate community God has placed you in!

Ask:

Did last week's sermon bring any questions to mind? Discuss with your group. Someone else might have had the same question or know how to answer yours!

Still have questions? Feel free to reach out to Dominique at dominique@hopefellowshipknox.com.