

**The Church is Born: Audience of One**  
Growth Group Discussion Guide  
Acts 4:32-5:14

**Intro questions**

- Share one aspect of your family history that people in your group might not know about.
- This week's guest speaker, Andrew Barber, said that the book of Acts is kind of like a "family history" for Christians. How is this the case? What value does the book serve if we think of it in this way?
- Take a moment to pray, asking for God's Spirit to lead your discussion.

**1. Read Acts 4:32-35, then discuss the following.**

- What stands out to you about this description of the life of the church?
- Have you ever seen a Christian community in present times that functions in this way? Please share an example.
- Review Acts 2:42-47. What comparisons do you see between these two passages? Why do you think Luke is highlighting similar themes here?
- Notice the second half of v. 33. What was the catalyst behind the generosity of the community?
  - Could this same catalyst produce the same result for us today? Why or why not?
- How does this passage challenge you?

**2. Read Acts 4:36-5:14, then discuss the following.**

- What stands out to you about Barnabas here? (This is the first time we meet him, and he will play a major role going forward in Acts).
- What seems to be Ananias' motivation in his sale of land and contribution of money?
- What was the sin that was most problematic in Ananias' actions?
- Why does Peter give Sapphira a chance to answer the same questions?
- Peter makes it clear (v. 3) that Satan has prompted the deception in this couple's actions. Commentators agree that Satan is surreptitiously trying to break the church apart, in any way possible.
  - In what way should this observation make us vigilant?
  - According to vv. 12-14, how successful was Satan's attempt at stopping the mission of Christ?
- What other observations, questions, or challenges stand out to you from these verses?

### 3. Application

- Andrew said on Sunday that from this passage, we can conclude that “God has little tolerance” for those who use Christianity for anything besides drawing close to him.”
  - In what ways do people use Christianity for their own ends today?
  - Do you sense that we—in our church or our growth group—are in danger of doing this in any particular ways? How can we guard against this tendency?
- The main thrust of Andrew’s sermon was, “Because we serve a holy God, we must live lives of fruitful stewardship, not fatal ownership.”
  - What does God’s holiness have to do with how we live?
  - What did Andrew mean by *stewardship* and *ownership*? What’s the difference?
  - As stewards, are there specific ways that our growth group could come together to meet a targeted need?

4. **Prayer:** Spend some time praying, not only for your group’s specific needs, but also in response to how this passage has challenged you.