



BASED ON ACTS 5:1-11

WHEN A HALF-TRUTH BECOMES A WHOLE DISASTER



AN ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE
FOR AGES 11-14

How to Use This Book

Welcome to an adventure where YOU step into a couple's story of generosity, image, and deadly hypocrisy.

How it works:

- Start at Section 1.
- Read each section carefully.
- At the end of each section, choose what YOU would do.
- Follow the directions to the next section number.
- Keep going until you reach an ending... then try other paths.

Some paths lean into people-pleasing, some into fear and cover-up, and some into raw honesty that leads to life.

Tips:

- You can read this alone or as a group (vote on choices together).
- Try different paths to see how the story changes.
- Pay attention to what happens when you choose image vs. integrity, honesty vs. spin, repentance vs. self-protection.
- Keep a Bible open to Acts 4:32-37 and Acts 5:1-11 as you read.

Warning: This story involves sudden death and God's severe discipline. It's intense.

Remember: Ananias and Sapphira weren't punished for giving "*not enough*," but for lying to God and pretending to be more generous than they were.

The Big Gift

Section 1

You are Ananias. You and your wife Sapphira are part of the early church in Jerusalem. You've seen miracles. You've heard the apostles preach. This community shares everything—*“no one claimed that any of their possessions was their own.”*

Recently, a man named Barnabas sold a field and brought the money to the apostles. Everyone is talking about his generosity. People respect him. His nickname means *“son of encouragement.”*

You and Sapphira also own some property. You talk about selling a piece of land and giving the money. You want to help. You also like the idea of being seen as generous.

You sell the property. The money is sitting in front of you. It's a lot.

Sapphira says, *“What if we keep some for ourselves but say this is the full amount? We still give a big gift, and no one has to know we didn't give everything.”*

What do you say?

- If you say, “No, if we give, we’ll be honest about how much,” go to **Section 2**.
- If you agree to keep some back but be honest about it, go to **Section 3**.
- If you agree to keep some back and pretend you gave it all, go to **Section 4**.

Honest from the Start

Section 2

You sigh. *“Sapphira, it’s our land. God never said we had to give all of it. But if we give, we have to be honest. I’d rather give less with integrity than more with a lie.”*

She hesitates, then nods. *“Okay. Let’s decide a number we can truly give, and just say that’s what it is.”*

You bring your gift to the apostles and simply say, *“We sold some land and want to give this amount.”* No drama. No exaggeration.

People are encouraged. God is pleased. Your names are never written down in Acts—but your hearts are clean.

END 1 – “The Gift with Integrity”

- You chose honesty over image. Not flashy. Not famous. But faithful.

Keeping Some, Telling the Truth

Section 3

You both decide: *“We’ll keep part of the money for ourselves, and tell the church we’re giving part, not all.”*

You bring the money, lay it at the apostles’ feet, and say, *“This is part of what we received from selling our land. We want to share some of what God’s given us.”*

There’s no shock. No *“Barnabas moment.”* Just quiet faithfulness. People are helped. Needs are met. You still have some savings. No one applauds you. No one dies.

END 2 – “The Partial Gift, Fully Honest”

- God never demanded 100%—He wanted 100% honesty. You gave less money, but more integrity.

The Secret Plan

Section 4

You look at the pile of money and feel a twist of fear. *“What if we give all of it? What will we live on?”*

Keeping some back seems wise. Pretending you gave all of it seems...tempting.

You and Sapphira agree: you’ll keep a portion hidden at home and bring the rest, presenting it as the full price. You tell yourselves:

“It’s still generous. Everyone will be encouraged. And we’ll still be secure. Win-win.”

Inside, a quieter voice asks, *“Then why not just tell the truth?”*

You push that voice away.

What happens next?

- If you decide you can’t go through with the lie and change your mind last minute, go to **Section 5**.
- If you carry out the plan and bring the money, claiming it’s the full amount, go to **Section 6**.

Backing Out of the Lie

Section 5

You hold the money bag and start sweating. You picture Peter's eyes. You remember how clearly he taught about the Holy Spirit. You imagine being found out.

Right before you leave the house, you turn to Sapphira. *"I can't do it," you say. "If we keep some, we'll say we kept some. I'd rather disappoint people than lie to God."*

She's frustrated, but you stay firm.

You end up in Section 2 or 3—honest giving, clean conscience, no dramatic story. Just a slow, steady life with God.

END 3 – “The Temptation You Refused”

- You almost lied to God for the sake of image, but you walked away. Quiet victories like this rarely make headlines—but they protect your soul.

The Lie to the Spirit

Section 6

You bring the portion of money you've decided to give and lay it at the apostles' feet. You speak carefully: *"This is the full amount we received for the land."*

Peter looks at you. It feels like he can see through your skin.

"Ananias," he says, "how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

He continues, *"Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing?"*

His final words hit hard: *"You have not lied just to human beings but to God."*

Your chest tightens. The room spins.

What did you think would happen?

You collapse and die. Young men come, wrap your body, and carry you out to be buried.

Three hours later, Sapphira comes in, unaware of what happened.

Now step into Sapphira's shoes.

Sapphira's Moment

Section 7

You are Sapphira. You walk into the gathering, expecting smiles and thanks. You don't see Ananias.

Peter calls you over. *"Tell me," he asks, "is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"*

You feel a jolt. This is your moment. You can keep the story going, or you can tell the truth.

You remember your agreement with Ananias. You also feel a tug in your conscience.

What do you say?

- If you stick with the lie—*"Yes, that's the price"*—go to **Section 8**.
- If you break the script and tell the truth, go to **Section 9**.

The Lie Confirmed

Section 8

You answer, *“Yes, that’s the price.”* You force a smile.

Peter’s face falls. *“How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord?”* he says. *“Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”*

You don’t even have time to process the words. You fall at his feet and die. The young men come in, find your body, and carry you out to be buried beside Ananias.

Great fear grips the whole church and everyone who hears what happened.

END 4 – “The Image That Cost You Everything”

- You kept the story polished and the lie intact—but it cost you your life. The fear that spread through the church became a hard, holy reminder: you can’t fake it with God.

Breaking the Script

Section 9

Peter's question hangs in the air. *"Is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"*

You freeze. You feel the weight of the Spirit pressing on your heart.

Your voice shakes. *"No,"* you say. *"We sold it for more. We kept part and pretended this was everything. I was afraid of looking less spiritual. I was wrong."*

The room is silent. Peter's face softens.

"Sapphira," he says, *"this lie was serious. You tried to deceive the church and the Holy Spirit. But God desires mercy. Turn from this. Don't ever play games with His presence."*

You fall to your knees in tears.

You live—but not as a *"hero of generosity."* You walk with a limp, spiritually speaking, knowing how close you came to disaster.

END 5 – “The Confession That Saved You”

- You risked your image to tell the truth. It was costly and humiliating—but it opened the door to mercy instead of judgment.

All the Endings

Check them off, then read the wisdom that goes with each one.

- **END 1 – “The Gift with Integrity”**
 - God is less impressed with the size of your gift than with the honesty of your heart.
- **END 2 – “The Partial Gift, Fully Honest”**
 - Giving “less” with integrity is better than giving “more” with a lie.
- **END 3 – “The Temptation You Refused”**
 - Many of the most important victories are the ones no one sees—when you simply choose not to go through with the wrong thing.
- **END 4 – “The Image That Cost You Everything”**
 - When your public image matters more than your private honesty, you are in dangerous territory with God.
- **END 5 – “The Confession That Saved You”**
 - Confession is costly and embarrassing, but it’s the doorway to mercy; covering up sin leads to deeper damage.

Five Truths You Can Carry

- **TRUTH 1: God cares more about integrity than appearance.**
 - Ananias and Sapphira’s problem wasn’t the amount they gave; it was the lie behind it.
- **TRUTH 2: Lying to God’s people is lying to God.**
 - Peter says they didn’t just lie to humans but to the Holy Spirit Himself. God takes that seriously.
- **TRUTH 3: Hypocrisy poisons community.**
 - Their fake generosity threatened the honesty and unity of a young church learning to share everything. God confronted it early and strongly.
- **TRUTH 4: You don’t have to give what you don’t have—but you must be honest about what you do give.**
 - Peter reminds them the land and money were theirs; the sin was pretending to be “all in” when they weren’t.
- **TRUTH 5: Fear of God is healthy when it leads to deeper honesty.**
 - “Great fear seized the whole church” after this. That fear guarded them from treating God casually.

Discussion Questions

Use these questions after going through at least one path:

1. Which ending did you reach first, and what does it show you about how you tend to respond to pressure—people-pleasing, hiding, telling the truth, or backing out last minute?
2. Where do you feel the temptation to “look more spiritual” than you really are (serving, giving, worship, online, etc.)?
3. Why do you think God dealt so severely with Ananias and Sapphira in this moment, instead of just giving them a warning?
4. What’s the difference between struggling with generosity vs. pretending to be generous?
5. “*You have not lied just to human beings but to God.*” How does that change the way you think about “*small*” lies, especially in church contexts?
6. Think of a time you almost went through with something wrong but stopped. What helped you turn around?
7. What would it look like for you to practice confession and honesty in safe relationships (friends, parents, leaders), instead of hiding?
8. How can your group/church become a place where honesty is valued more than image?

Your Challenge This Week

Choose ONE “Ananias & Sapphira choice” to live out this week:

- **Tell the truth** in a situation where lying or exaggerating would make you look better.
- **Admit one area** where you’ve been “faking it” spiritually, to a trusted person, and ask for prayer.
- **Give something** (time, money, attention) quietly this week with no one watching and no credit.
- **Ask God to show you** where image has become more important than integrity—and write down what He reveals.

My specific action step:

Prayer

Lord God,

Thank You for loving us enough to tell us the truth—even when it's hard. Help me take You seriously, not casually. Guard me from living for my image instead of for Your eyes.

Show me where I've been pretending—about my faith, my generosity, my struggles. Give me courage to tell the truth and to confess instead of cover up. Teach me to give, serve, and worship from an honest heart.

Let a healthy fear of You lead me into deeper integrity, not shame. Make our church a place where honesty is safe and hypocrisy is challenged in love.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Contact

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Step into the story of Ananias and Sapphira—a couple caught between real generosity and the pressure to look more spiritual than they really are. As the plot unfolds, you'll face choices about telling the truth, spinning the story, backing out at the last minute, or doubling down on a lie.

Inside, you'll:

- Walk through one of the New Testament's most intense stories about holiness, hypocrisy, and the fear of God
- Explore multiple endings that show how image-management, secrecy, confession, or integrity can shape a life
- Discover key truths about honesty, community, and why God cares so much about what's happening in your heart

Scripture basis:

Acts 5:1–11

Recommended age:

11–14

“You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”

Acts 5:4b