



Participant's Guide

Week of April 23

The Big Idea

In another snapshot of the early church, we see two examples of devotion to God. One good, one bad. The clear message: be like Barnabas and have genuine commitment to God's mission.

Getting Started

1. What are some of the "backwards," or counter-intuitive dimensions of following Jesus?
2. Which of these dimensions is the hardest for you to incorporate into your life? Easiest?

Digging In

1. Read **Acts 4:32-35**. Are these verses descriptive (just telling a story of something that happened in the past) or prescriptive (telling us how we should live our lives)? What is your knee-jerk reaction to someone saying it is prescriptive?
2. Read **Acts 4:36-37**. Imagine what this would look like today. What would it take for you to make a decision like Barnabas did?
3. Read **Acts 5:1-11**. What was wrong with what Ananias and Sapphira did?
4. Why doesn't it seem like God strikes people dead in the same way today?

Looking Around

1. Do you ever face the temptation to lie (to others, the Holy Spirit, or yourself) about your true Spiritual fervor?
2. How can you avoid being like Ananias and Sapphira?

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3. What steps can you take to be more like Barnabas?

Pray

Lord, may we be like Barnabas in everything we do. Forgive us for the times we've hypocritically kept things from you, teach us to fully obey and follow you.