

Lake Merced Church of Christ

Home Groups

What Now? - Testing of the Holy Spirit

Ice Breaker

Tell about a time when you came into contact with something or someone stronger or more powerful than you. What happened? When did you realize that you were no match? What life lessons did you learn from that encounter?

Opening Prayer

Open your group prayer time by asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand the power of God within you and the healthy respect you need to have for God's Holy Spirit as a result.

Discussion

Read Acts 4:32-5:11 together as a group and then discuss the following questions as the Holy Spirit leads.

1. In this week's text, we begin with a brief mention of the oneness that the early Believers were living with. People were selling their possession and giving the money to the Apostles to distribute to others as they had need. Can you think of a time where you saw someone in the church be generous in an extraordinary way? If so, what happened, and what kind of impression did that make on you?
2. Would you say that living in a way where believers all financially helped one another like this makes you comfortable or uncomfortable? Encouraged or discouraged? Is it realistic for Christians today or unrealistic? Why?
3. In this week's text, we are introduced to a married couple named Ananias and Sapphira who do what the other believers had been doing at the end of Acts 4, with one basic exception, they held some of their gift back. Why do you think Peter claims that Satan has filled Ananias' heart as a result of that? Do you think the Bible is telling believers they need to give everything they have away in order to be "right" with God?
4. In Acts 4:31, the believers are filled with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 5:3, Ananias is said to have been filled with Satan and has "lied to the Holy Spirit." How do you think we can understand these two opposing fillings? What do you think it meant to be filled with Satan, especially within the context of last week where the believers were filled with the Spirit. Are people filled with Satan today?
5. Ananias was said to have "lied to the Holy Spirit." Sapphira was said to have tested the Holy Spirit. Are these two words saying different things or the same thing? What do you think?
6. John's encouragement from his message was to respect the power of God when we contemplate the role that sin plays in our lives, not to overlook it or pretend it doesn't happen. How do you think we can understand our relationship with our own sin in light of this passage?

Closing Prayer

Close by praying for the needs of one another. Pray for strength in the face of sin and temptation.