

# S.A.F.E. Homes



Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



*“And the multitude of them that believed  
were of one heart and of one soul.”  
Acts 4:32a*

## A Matter Of The Heart

Shortly after the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost was poured out for the first time, a wave of generosity swept through the church. People were selling their houses and lands and bringing the money to the church to be given to those who were in need. Today’s focus verse says that those who believed were of one heart and one soul. No one was left out or neglected.

Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, were a part of the church in Jerusalem. They sold some land that they owned, but agreed together to keep some of the money for themselves. Nothing in scripture says that they were wrong for giving some and keeping some, but Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Apostle Peter about it. When they brought their offering they tried to make Peter and the rest of the church believe that they were giving everything they received from the sale of their land. God was not pleased with their deception and Ananias and Sapphira died that day.

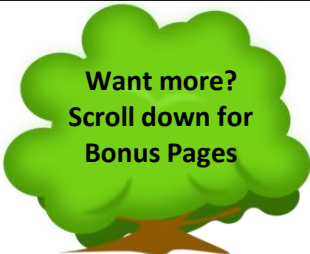
Although we may not see people die as a result of lying today, God still sees and judges the heart. In spite of the amazing miracle of Pentecost and the great revival that was taking place in Jerusalem, some people did not keep their heart pure and holy before God.

If you have received the gift of the Holy Ghost, you are a blessed person. But your journey with Jesus is just beginning. Galatians 5:16 says, ***“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*** You will still be tempted to do things that are not pleasing to God. But if you allow God’s Spirit to lead and guide you, you will have the power to overcome the temptations of the world!

**Family Prayer:** “Dear Lord, thank You that You have given us the power to make right choices and resist the temptations of this world. In You we have the victory! In Jesus name, amen.”



Includes  
Family  
Activities



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Bonus Pages



Read the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5. Act out the story as a family. You might even try it two different ways: once as it really happened, again as it *should have* happened. Remember that the wrong was not in keeping part of the money, but in being dishonest about it.

Let's talk

Why do you think that Ananias and Sapphira lied about their offering? Has there ever been a time when you pledged an offering for something at church, but later forgot to fulfill your commitment? How important do you think it is to follow through on what you have promised?

Although we are not commanded by scripture to sell all our possessions to live for God, He does bless a cheerful giver. This week look for a way to bless someone else by giving. Maybe a few canned goods for a widow or single mother, a care package for someone who is sick would be nice. If there is a new convert in the church, perhaps you could bless them with clothing. Pray about it and let God use you to be a blessing!



## Additional Challenges

*Let's take a closer look at this story.*

Acts 4:36 mentions Joses, who was also called Barnabas. What was the meaning of his name?

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Can you find other places in scripture where Barnabas shows up?

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In Acts 5:3-4, what four questions did the Apostle Peter ask Ananias?

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Peter only asked Sapphira one question. What was it?

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Verse 11 says, "Great \_\_\_\_\_ came upon all the church."

Verse 14 says that in spite of this negative incident, multitudes of people were \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.

Verse 16 says many people were \_\_\_\_\_.

*This short story in Acts reminds us that there have always been hypocrites in the church, but **you** do not have to be one of them! Keep your heart pure and honest before God and let Him use you to be a blessing to others.*

Puzzle Page

O R H P Y R Q E L G B H L E D  
F K B X T U E E M E C S S H E  
F Y I Q I I T C L I K J R L T  
E O E R S R N I E L R Y R Q P  
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I Z U P R V X V C D V V C H E  
N A P O E U I B A T P E E L T  
G G I D N V O E L P R A D K E  
E R L E E F L J H U R P S W R  
U E I R G S K Y T T E D I U G  
B E C X S A P P H I R A V O P  
L D R Z V V I B L E S S E D D  
H U D L T R I M F M K V O I M  
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W Z R S X Y U Q H I I A G O J

AGREED  
BLESSED  
HEART  
MIRACLE  
RECEIVED  
SCRIPTURE

ANANIAS  
GENEROSITY  
JOURNEY  
OFFERING  
REVIVAL  
SOUL

BELIEVED  
GUIDE  
LEAD  
PURE  
SAPPHIRA  
TEMPTED

"Create in me a clean heart, O God"

