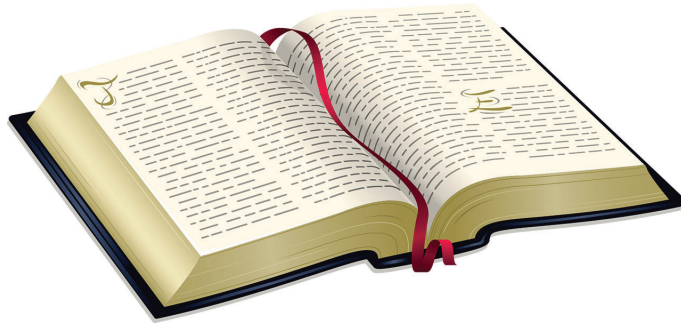


toServe Bible Study - WHS-08



Acts - Lesson 2 of 7

Answer Sheet New International Version (NIV) Chapters 5 - 8

The story of Ananias and Sapphira

is found in Acts 5, and it is a sad story indeed. It actually begins at the end of chapter 4 with the description of the early church in Jerusalem, a group of believers so filled with the Holy Spirit that they were of one heart and one mind. Great power and grace were with the apostles, who preached and testified of the risen Savior. So knit together were the hearts of the people that they held all their possessions loosely and willingly shared them with one another, not because they were coerced, but because they loved one another. Those who sold land and houses gave their profits to the apostles, who distributed the gifts to those in need.

Two members of this group were Ananias and his wife Sapphira; they also had sold a field. Part of the profit from their sale was kept back by the couple, and Ananias only laid a part of the money at the apostles' feet. However, Ananias made a pretense of having given all the proceeds. This hypocritical show may have fooled some, but not Peter, who was filled with the power of the Spirit. Peter knew instantly that Ananias was lying—not just to him but to God—and exposed his hypocrisy then and there. Ananias fell down and died (Acts 5:5). When Sapphira showed up, she, too, lied to Peter and to God, saying that they had donated the entire proceeds of the sale of the land to the church. When her lie had been exposed, she also fell down and died at Peter's feet.

Chapter 5

Please read all of Acts Chapter 5 ☐ Check

1. (v. 5:3) Who did Peter accuse Ananias of lying to? the Holy Spirit
How did Peter say this happen? Satan has so filled your heart
2. (v. 5:4) Peter is making a point to Ananias about the ownership of property and lying about the money he sold it for, what point is he making to Ananias?
You have not lied just to human beings but to God.

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

Acts 5:12

Solomon's Porch or Colonnade was the name of two porches associated with the temple in Jerusalem. The original temple, constructed by King Solomon, is described in 1 Kings: "As for the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length was sixty cubits [90 feet] and its width twenty cubits [30 feet] and its height thirty cubits [45 feet]. The porch in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits [30 feet] in length, corresponding to the width of the house, and its depth along the front of the house was ten cubits [15 feet]" (1 Kings 6:2–3).



Second Temple, showing all the Colonnades of Solomon's Porch

1. (vs. 5:17-18) What is the one word that describes the reason the high priest had the apostles put in jail? jealousy
2. (vs. 5:19-20) When the angel of the Lord came and opened the prison doors to release the apostles from prison, where did the angels tell them to go?
"Go, stand in the temple courts,"
What message did they tell them to bring?
tell the people all about this new life.
3. (vs. 5:26-29) When Peter and the others were brought to the council what bold statement did they make to the high priest ?
We must obey God rather than human beings!
4. In verse 5:30 Peter and the apostles make the boldest statement yet. What are they accusing the council and high priest of in this statement?
The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead,
whom you killed by hanging him on a cross.
5. (vs. 5:33-39) These verses tells of one of the council, a teacher of the law who was held in respect by all the people. What is the wise conclusion that he came up with at the end of these verses?
But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men;
you will only find yourselves fighting against God.
6. (v. 5:40) Before letting the apostles go, what did they order them not to do?
not to speak in the name of Jesus,
7. (vs. 5:41-42) After the council and high priest let the apostles go, what did the apostles start back doing?
they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Chapter 6

Please read all of Acts Chapter 6 ☐ Check

1. (vs. 6:1-3) In the first 3 verses of chapter 6, we see the formation of the job of Deacon. What are 2 or 3 qualifications your Bible mentions?

1. full of the Spirit 2. wisdom 3. -----

2. (v. 6:5) Who were the first seven Disciples picked for the task of Deacon?

1. Stephen 4. Nicanor 6. Parmenas
2. Philip 5. Timon 7. Nicolas
3. Prochorus

3. (v. 6:7) Some of the strongest evidence of the Holy Spirit's effect on a new believer shows up in this verse. Who were these new believers?

priests became obedient to the faith.

Synagogue of the Freedmen

Acts 6:9 is the only place in the Bible that the Synagogue of the Freedmen is mentioned.

"Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen". The Synagogue of the Freedmen is called the Synagogue of the Libertines in the KJV. The word libertine is from the Latin and originally referred to a man who had been a slave but had been set free. Some scholars believe that these persons were slaves of the Romans who had been freed, became proselytes of the Jewish religion, and had a synagogue in Jerusalem. The NLT calls this group the Synagogue of Freed Slaves.

Other scholars contend that these freedmen were not Jewish proselytes but Jews by birth who had been taken into captivity by the Romans and then set free and subsequently called liberti or libertini. There were many such Jews. Some have speculated that among these zealous members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen was Saul of Tarsus, who would have been more than capable of disputing with Stephen in matters of religion.

4. (v. 6:11) What was one of the first ways the Freedmen started rumors against Stephen?
they secretly persuaded some men to say,
"We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."
-
5. (vs. 6:13-14) What did the false witnesses say against Stephen?
this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change
the customs Moses handed down to us.
-

Chapter 7

Please read all of Acts Chapter 7 ☐ Check

Stephen finally has a chance to respond to his charges:

After all the blasphemy charges brought against Stephen, he finally has a chance to address the council. In his speech, Stephen reminded them of their faithful patriarch, Abraham, and how God had led him from a pagan land into the land of Israel, where He made a covenant with him. He spoke of the journey of his people, through Joseph's sojourn in Egypt to their deliverance by Moses 400 years later. He brought to mind how Moses had met God in the wilderness of Midian in a burning bush, and he explained how God had empowered Moses to lead His people from idolatry and slavery to freedom and times of refreshing in the Promised Land. Throughout his speech he repeatedly reminded them of their continual rebellion and idolatry, in spite of the mighty works of God to which they were eyewitnesses, thereby accusing them with their own history, which only irritated them until they did not want to hear any more.

1. (v. 7:2) In Chapter 6:8-15, all has to do with Stephen being accused of blasphemy, being taken captive and brought before the council. Finally in Chapter 7 Stephen has a chance to address the council. Stephen begins with a history lesson, starting when?
The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia,
-

2. (vs. 7:4-5) Stephen describes to the council how God had Abraham moving around, and he told them that God moved him to this land *in which you now dwell, and God gave him no inheritance in it*. What land was it? Israel
3. (v. 7:6) Stephen next made the point to the council that God told Abraham that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land where they would be in bondage/slavery for how many years? four hundred years
4. (v. 7:8) What is Abraham's relationship to the twelve patriarchs (sons of Jacob)?
Great Grandfather
5. (v. 7:9) The patriarchs who were all the sons of Jacob, sold their brother Joseph into slavery in Egypt, for what reason? the patriarchs were jealous
6. (v. 7:11) Stephen now tells the council about the famine that took place in the region. What two countries did it effect according to scripture?
1. Egypt 2. Canaan
7. Stephen, addressing the council on the charges of blasphemy starts at the first of Chapter 7. What verse does it end? Verse 53
8. (v. 7:14) When Joseph called/sent for his father and all his family, how many were there? seventy-five in all
9. (vs. 7:15-16) These verses tell three facts about Jacob, what are they?
1. What country did Jacob and Abraham die in? Egypt
2. Where were they taken to be buried? Shechem
3. How did the family acquire the tomb? Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a certain sum of money.
10. (v. 7:20) After birth, how long was Moses cared for by his father/family?
for three months

11. (v. 7:30) After Moses had fled to the land of Midian, he had two sons.

When 40 years had passed:

1. Who appeared to him? an angel appeared

2. In what form? flames of a burning bush

12. (vs. 7:54-56) When the council, the Sanhedrin heard all this from Stephen, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

In your own words write out Stephen's response to the council's reaction.

13. (v. 7:58) For the first time we are seeing a man named Saul, whom we'll soon become very familiar with. What in this scripture indicates that he must be in some sort of authority? the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

14. (v. 7:59) What sentence did the council give Stephen for the charge of blasphemy? they were stoning him

15. (v. 7:60) What were the last words Stephen cried out before he died?

(Some Bible versions use "fell asleep")

"Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Chapter 8

Please read all of Acts Chapter 8 ☐ Check

Scattered:

According to Christian theologian, Dr James Boice, there are two different words in the ancient Greek language for the idea of “scattered.” One has the idea of scattering in the sense of making something disappear, like scattering someone’s ashes. The other word has the idea of scattering in the sense of planting or sowing seeds. This is the ancient Greek word used here.

In **Acts 1:8** Jesus clearly told His followers to look beyond Jerusalem and bring the gospel to Judea, Samaria, and the whole world. But to this point, Jesus’ followers had not done this.

The resulting good of the spread of the gospel leads some to see this persecution as being the will of God. God can and will use pressing circumstances to guide us into His will. Sometimes we have to be shaken out of our comfortable state before we do what God wants us to do.

Now Saul was consenting to his death.

***At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem;
and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria,
Acts 8:1b***

1. (v. 8:3) What was Saul’s first recorded act in persecuting the church?
Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

2. (v. 8:4) At this point, after all the believers were “scattered” due to what happened to Stephen, what did they do next?
preached the word.

3. (vs. 8:5-8) Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached the Good News of Jesus Christ to them. What were the recorded results of this spreading of the Gospel?
many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

4. What do we learn about a man called/named Simon in Chapter 8, verse 9?
Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great,
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-
5. (v.8:13) What became of Simon after he heard the preaching about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ?
Simon himself believed and was baptized.
-
-
-
6. (vs. 8:14-15) What was the purpose of the apostles sending Peter and John to Samaria?
they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit,
-
7. (vs. 8:15-16) What does this say about the relationship between receiving the Holy Spirit and being baptized? (answer may vary)
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-
-
-
8. (vs. 8:17-19) After Simon observed what Peter and John did in verse 17, what false belief did he have?
“Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”
-
-
-
9. (vs. 8:21-22) What response did Peter have for Simon after he made this false statement?
Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.
-
-

10.(v. 8:26) What was the angel of the Lord’s specific direction to Philip?

“Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

11.(vs. 8:27-30) In these verses we understand why the angel of the Lord had directed Philip here. In your own words, what was the purpose of this encounter?

12.(v. 8:36) After Philip preached the good news to the Ethiopian eunuch, what did he ask Philip?

“Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”

The story of the Ethiopian eunuch:

Acts 8 is a marvelous depiction of God's role in evangelism. The story starts with Philip, one of the seven original deacons, who had just preached the gospel in Samaria (Acts 8:4–8).

Philip was visited by an angel who told him to go south to a road that ran from Jerusalem to Gaza, in the desert (Acts 8:26). Philip didn't ask why he was being sent to the middle of nowhere; he just went (verse 27). On the road, in a chariot, was the Ethiopian eunuch, who was just returning from Jerusalem. The eunuch was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah. The Spirit of the Lord told Philip to go over and join the chariot, and when Philip drew close he overheard the eunuch reading from Isaiah out loud. Philip asked the Ethiopian whether or not he understood what he was reading. The eunuch replied "How can I, unless someone guides me?" He then invited Philip to come sit with him in the chariot (verse 31).

The passage the Ethiopian eunuch was reading was this: *"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, / and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, / so he did not open his mouth. / In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. / Who can speak of his descendants? / For his life was taken from the earth"* (Acts 8:32–33; cf. Isaiah 53:7–8). The eunuch was wondering who the prophet was talking about, "himself or someone else?" (Acts 8:34).

Philip used this opportunity to explain the passage: this was a prophecy about Jesus Christ, who meekly gave His life to save the world. As Philip explained the gospel, the Ethiopian eunuch believed. When they came to some water by the side of the road, the eunuch asked to be baptized (Acts 8:36).

What Bible Version/Translation did you use for this Lesson?

ESV ☐, KJV ☐, NIV ☐, NKJV ☐, NLT ☐, Other: _____

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