

FOLLOW ME

Week 7: August 1-7

Welcome/ Introduce Guests/ Share Life (10 minutes)

Recall the Guidelines/ Open in Prayer

Vision Casting (2 minutes):

Hook Question (5 minutes): When was a time you struggled being 100% committed to what you were doing?

Ask someone to read the background for the story (2 minutes):

John 13:34-35 tells us that people will know that we are Jesus' disciples by our love for one another. The early church was a great example for us of what it means to love one another. In Acts two, three-thousand people accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. Immediately, the apostles began to teach their new brothers and sisters and the people devoted themselves to their teaching. The amount of time they were together was very significant. It was so significant that they ate together regularly and they had all things in common.

Part of having all things in common meant that those who had a lot sacrificed what they had to help those who were less fortunate. Outsiders were amazed by the love shown in the early church! As a result, "the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved".

With such an incredible movement taking place, governing authorities began to take notice. They tried to silence Peter and John who were leading this revival. But their conviction to speak the truth of the gospel would not be suppressed. The believers prayed for boldness to speak truth so that all would have the faith to believe in Jesus as Lord.

Despite the pressure felt from governing authorities, these people continued to love one another. But not all were fully devoted. In today's story we will learn of a man who made a great sacrifice to love his neighbor. We will also see a family who wanted to be a part, but weren't quite all in. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 4:32 – 5:11 (12 Minutes): Change the storyteller often.

Rebuild Acts 4:32 – 5:11: Retell the story as well as possible.

Read Acts 4:32 – 5:11: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: Learn to talk about God's word with others. **(Take as much time as needed.)**

- What stands out to you in this story?
- What does this story teach you about God?
- What does this story teach you about yourself and others?
- Who do you relate to in this story?
 - What was the difference between Joseph (aka Barnabas) and Ananias and Sapphira?
- How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you? How should you apply this story to your life?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in Prayer.