

The Ghost and the DARKNESS

Week 4 (November 12-18): Lesson Guide

Introduce guests/share life. *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

Open in prayer. *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

Recall the guidelines together. *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

Hook Question: Could you share a story where you embellished the truth to make yourself look better?

Retell last week's story: Peter Praised, Peter Rebuked (Matthew 16:13-25).

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

When we last left Peter, he was being rebuked by Jesus for being a tool of Satan because Peter's mind was fixed on the things of man, not on the things of God. Today's story jumps forward in time – Jesus's prophetic words about His death and resurrection were fulfilled, and Jesus ascended into heaven. Shortly after His ascension, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and transform the lives of His disciples. The Holy Spirit changed the nature of Peter and made him a new creation in Christ. God used Peter as an instrumental leader in the first generation of the Church.

The early church lived as a family. They met daily, sharing meals together, praying together, hearing sermons and worshipping together, and meeting in one another's homes (Acts 2:42-47). As these new believers shared life together as family, they began to see needs in their group. When they saw those needs, they did what any good family would do – they started using what they had to meet the needs. Some people went so far as to sell their property and possessions to help meet the needs. The Bible says the church was so generous that "there was not a need among them" (Acts 4:34). No one was forced to sell their stuff or give money, but they did so willingly because they were a family. When they gathered their offerings, the people would come and lay the proceeds at the feet of the Apostles, trusting God's leaders to manage those gifts and use them to glorify God through His Church.

There was a couple in the church, Ananias and Sapphira. This couple had a piece of property that they decided to sell to give the proceeds to the church. However, something went wrong as Satan filled their hearts with a deceitful plan. The couple came to Peter and the Apostles. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 5:1-11: Change up the storyteller often!

Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

Read the story in Acts 5:1-11: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discuss these questions:

Head Questions:
Quicker tempo.

- Satan's goal is to kill, steal, and destroy. How did he work his plan in this story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

- Pause and think. How do you relate? What needs to change in your thoughts or behaviors based on this story and discussion?

Action

- Ask someone to retell this week's story one last time.

Close in Prayer

Recruit a Storyteller for Next Week