



Fall 2020 Theme: Love for One Another
Unit III: Godly Love among Believers

Lesson Titles:
Sharing Love in Truth
 (Faith Pathway Bible Studies)
Sharing Love
 (Townsend Press Sunday School
 Commentary)

LESSON 12 • November 22, 2020

Fall 2020 Theme: Love for One Another
Unit III: Godly Love among Believers

Background Scriptures: Acts 4:32–5:11

Print Passages: Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11

Key Verse(s):

The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. (Acts 4:32, KJV)

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All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. (Acts 4:32, NIV)

Questions to Consider

1. What were the characteristics of the early church?
2. What did Ananias and Sapphira do?

Lesson Aims:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Explore the Jerusalem church's practice and witness of communal sharing.
- Regret your idolatrous attachment to material goods.
- Create a plan to increase your giving for the common good.

Lesson Context:

In this week's lesson, we see the character of the early church in Jerusalem. Along with being a Christ-centered and a praying church, it was a sharing church.

Key Points:

I. Truthful Sharing (Acts 4:32-37)

- Life characterizing the early church was the practice of communal **sharing**. They shared possession and property.
- This church was actively practicing the two great commandments to totally **love** God and to love one's neighbor.

II. Counterfeit Sharing (Acts 5:1-11)

- Ananias and Sapphira, they too sold property but **kept** part of the proceeds before bringing it to the apostles to be distributed.
 - Both Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy **Spirit**.
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Lesson Summary:

The early church is an exemplary **model** of what it takes to share love and truth. They were a Spirit-filled church united in their doctrinal beliefs, fellowship, and worship. One evidence of their unity was the way they sacrificed and shared with one another as economic needs surfaced among them.

What do you think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. How can believers be encouraged to give generously on a regular basis?

2. How focused is the community of faith on purity over maintaining corporate peace?

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
