

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 7 • Week 2

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

OBJECTIVE:

The story of Ananias and Sapphira teaches the need for honesty at all times, even if telling the truth is harmful to us personally.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: Do any of you know what the Ninth Commandment says?

Say: That's right. Exodus 20:16 states, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Who did Jesus Christ say our neighbor is? Everybody! (Luke 10:29-37).

Ask: Lying is a sin, isn't it? What is the result of sin?

Say: Lying makes people unhappy. It hurts others. And it will end in death if we are not truly sorry and if we don't change. The Living Bible paraphrased Exodus 20:16 as "You must not lie." God stresses over and over through His Word that He does not want us to tell a lie! Have you ever told a lie? You probably have. We all have.

Ask: What are some lies that society, the world around us, tells?

Say: Santa Claus at Christmas time and Easter bunnies with eggs are lies, aren't they? People don't really say bunnies lay eggs, but they seem to imply it. Cheating is also dishonest and almost everyone has cheated at one time or another. You don't need to raise your hand, but have you ever lied to get someone else in trouble because you didn't want to take the blame for something you did? Or have you lied to get someone in trouble because you didn't like that person?

Say: God tells us not to lie, doesn't He? He is very concerned that we always tell the truth. We will talk today about two people who had to die because they lied. Many scriptures state this same principle of telling the truth and not lying.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: We find this story in the Bible in Acts 5:1-11.

This is a very extreme example; but God had a point to make. He wanted to emphasize the importance of telling the truth.

Ask: Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira lied about the amount they had been given? (Fame, prestige, vanity?)

Say: Ananias and Sapphira could have kept their possessions. They could have given a part of it; and that part would have been appreciated.

Ask: Ananias and Sapphira were talking to the apostle Peter, but to whom were they really lying?

Do: Explain to the students that since Peter had the mind of God in him through the power of the Holy Spirit, Ananias and Sapphira were lying to God. It does not mean that the Holy Spirit is a person. When we deny the action and presence of the Holy Spirit, we are denying God Himself since that Spirit is His power and essence.

Say: Telling a lie is so terrible in God's sight that He made an example of them so others would not be so bold to lie and cause division in the Church.

Ask: Does God tell us that if we have a lying tongue it is an abomination to Him?

Do: Ask one of the students to read Proverbs 6:16-19.

Say: An abomination is an action that is very repulsive and disgusting—it's like garbage.

Ask: Does God also tell us that one of the character traits we must have to be in His Kingdom is to tell the truth even if it hurts us?

Do: Ask one of the students to read Psalm 15:1, 4.

Ask: When would telling the truth sometimes hurt us personally? [Draw out examples from them such as telling the truth when we break a window playing baseball or admitting we provoked our younger sibling to hit us.]

Say: Telling the truth always turns out for the best.

Ask: I'm sure you would all agree that Ananias and Sapphira would have been much better off if they would have not what? [Answer: Lied!]

LESSON APPLICATION:

Find the words of the memory verse (1 Corinthians 13:6) in the word search.

Find the words listed below in the word search puzzle. The words can be found from left to right, right to left, top to bottom, bottom to top or diagonally starting at the top or bottom.

1 Corinthians 13:6 Word Search

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

BUT	DOES	INIQUITY
LOVE	NOT	REJOICE
REJOICES	THE	TRUTH

Remember: Love rejoices in the truth

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 13:6 "[Love] does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth."

family activity

THE POINT:

To emphasize the need for honesty at all times, even if telling the truth is harmful to us personally. This week the children learned about Ananias and Sapphira. They were taught how important it is to tell the truth at all times. Not doing so ended with the death of both Ananias and Sapphira.

ASK ME...

- To tell you the story of Ananias and Sapphira.
- Why is it good to tell the truth even though the truth may hurt?
- How does God describe lying? Hint to parent—it's an abomination (Proverbs 6:16-19).
- What does "abomination" mean? Hint to parent—"repulsive, disgusting, like garbage."

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

We never want to tempt our children or provoke them. But we do want to drive home the lessons of godly character. So look for opportunities this week and thereafter to remind them of the importance of telling the truth and the lesson they learned this past week, so they can remember why it's good to always tell the truth.

Often it is good to show mercy when a child does not lie. Punishment can be less severe also.

Do one of the following family activities that will help drive the lesson home:

- Read the story of Abraham Lincoln, "honest Abe," from a library book.
- Tell the story of George Washington who "never told a lie."
- Tell the children stories from your own life, of when you told the truth even though tempted not to and how it all worked out for the good in the end.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 13:6 "[Love] does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth."