

# UNSTOPPABLE

THE CHURCH JESUS INTENDED

## STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, May 17, 2026

**Guest Speaker:** Josh Edmon, Dean of Multicultural & Spiritual Life at North Central University

**Teaching:** *The Church and Integrity*

**Key Scripture:** Acts 5:1-11

CEDAR VALLEY

## 5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

**Monday:** Acts 15:36 – 16:15

**Tuesday:** Acts 16:16-40

**Wednesday:** Acts 17:1-15

**Thursday:** Acts 17:16--34

**Friday:** Acts 18:1-22

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

## MEMORY VERSE:

No memory verse this week

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

So far in our *Unstoppable Church* series through the book of Acts, we have seen God establish the Church and empower it with His Spirit. This new community is living proof of the Holy Spirit dwelling within believers. They are united, generous, devoted to prayer, and committed to the apostles' teaching. At the end of both Acts 2 and 4, Luke gives a beautiful summary of the unity and generosity that marked the community of believers. But in Acts 5:1-11, the tone suddenly shifts. We encounter a couple who, instead of being filled with the Spirit, are described as being "filled" by Satan. A dark cloud comes over the community. This passage reminds us that God takes sin seriously and that the character and integrity of His Church are crucial to His mission.

## Questions:

Ice Breaker: On a scale where one is a minimalist and five is a hoarder, where would you rank yourself? Why?

1. Read Acts 4:32-37 as a group first. How did the community respond to the needs of the church, and specifically, what did Barnabas do?
2. Now Read Acts 5:1-11 as a group. Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira decided to give some of the proceeds of their land sale to the apostles?
3. What lie did Satan fill Ananias and Sapphira's heart with?
4. Was selling their land and giving it all to the apostles a requirement for them to be accepted? Why or why not?

5. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? (Not everyone agrees on what the sin is here! So have fun discussing this.)
6. What does the severe reaction to Ananias and Sapphira's sin tell you about the Holy Spirit? (See Digging Deeper for help)
7. How do Christians act like Ananias and Sapphira today? How are we tempted in the same way?
8. How can we resist hypocrisy in us and in our community? How can we cultivate integrity in our lives?

## DIGGING DEEPER

### Question 6—

Why were Ananias and Sapphira killed so suddenly, with no grace given? This punishment seems harsh and can be hard to understand. One thing that can be helpful is to note there are strong Old Testament parallels in Joshua 7:1-26, Leviticus 10, and 2 Chronicles 26. If you want to understand this story better, read these passages together as a group.

In all three instances, people are judged harshly for sins that defile the temple and the community. Just like these Old Testament examples, Ananias and Sapphira are judged for bringing sin into the new covenant temple—the Church. In particular, Acts 5 and Joshua 7 both mark new beginnings: Joshua 7 follows Israel's entry into the Promised Land, and Acts 5 takes place at the start of the early church. A lack of integrity and transparency were taken very seriously as the Church was just starting to form. Some New Testament scholars argue this story is not normative – meaning it does not suggest a pattern for the how the Spirit will move throughout the book of Acts. They argue this was an occurrence that parallels these Old Testament accounts just when the Church was beginning.

See the article below for more.

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/why-were-ananias-and-sapphira-killed-acts-5/?srsltid=AfmBOoqTrpCrWs8C5SreJLIHGSqnHDAdpnd-zvfA6gzCGuxlXggjPdWM>

“In Acts 5:11, the word “Church” (Greek *ecclesia* meaning “assembly”) occurs for the first time... The Greek word has both a Gentile and a Jewish background. In its Gentile sense it denotes chiefly the citizen-assembly of a Greek city (cf. Acts 19:32, 39, 41), but it is its Jewish usage that underlies its use to denote the community of believers in Jesus.”

—Bruce, F. F. *The Book of Acts: The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1988.