

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“BOLD (pt.4)” 12.29.15

**Scripture:** Acts 4:32-5:11

**Bottom Line:** The early church gave BOLDLY to the mission.

## INTRODUCTION/BREAKING THE ICE:

The big question of this week's sermon was “do you love God?” or “do you love the world?” What do you think it means to “love the world?” What are some ways that our love of the world takes the place of our love for God?

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL:

**Read Acts 4:32-37**

The church is spreading and the early Christians are literally centering their lives around the message of the gospel. They are leaving behind the idea of chasing after the world's comforts and giving all they have so others will know the message of Jesus' death and resurrection.

**1) What encouraged the early church towards such an act of generosity and putting money at the apostle's feet?**

**Answer:** The Gospel! The apostles were preaching the message of Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. God generously gave himself to them so they respond with generosity towards others.

**2) How can you respond to God's generosity towards you?**

**Answer:** Give my time and resources to care for others, giving to the mission of God through the church, etc.

**Read Acts 5:1-11**

**1) What did Ananias and Sapphira do wrong?**

**Answer:** It was not that they didn't give enough to the church! It was that they lied. Their hearts were for themselves and not for God.

**2) Ananias and Sapphiras were hypocrites. They outwardly displayed a strong sense of spirituality but inwardly they did not love God. How do we avoid being hypocrites?**

**Answer:** Confess and repent! None of us will ever be perfect. As we confess our brokenness we point to God's goodness in loving us even though we still struggle with sin as Christians.

**3) Ananias and Sapphiras had love for the world (riches and praise from others). How can our love for the world lead to a slow death in our day?**

**Answer:** Chasing the american dream impacts relationship with our family and each other, it steals our joy as we're never satisfied with “stuff”, etc.

## LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE

**1) Ask your small group a difficult question to ponder and measure their hearts - Is your life centered around the gospel and others hearing about Jesus' death and resurrection?**

**2) In this text we see that God is fighting not for our wallets, but for our hearts. How can we center our lives on the Gospel?**

**3) In what ways can you personally BOLDLY give to the spread of the message of the Gospel?**