



In Acts 5:1-11, we are met with the first recorded sin in the New Testament church. After witnessing what seemed like ever-increasing unity and joy over the first four chapters of the book, from now on what we'll see is not only external persecution, but internal corruption. At the heart of this story, what we see most clearly is God's passion for, and His commitment to, the purity of the church. There are three lessons in this passage that instruct us on how a local church can pursue purity and fight hypocrisy: 1. Stand in the Truth, 2. Walk in the Light, and 3. Live in the Fear of the Lord.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How does Acts 5:1-11 contrast with the preceding passage 4:32-37?
2. What were the two ways that Matt listed to help us stand in the truth and fight hypocrisy in our own lives? With regards to believing the truth of Scripture, what truths in the Bible are you prone to doubt?
3. One of the ways we can fight hypocrisy and pursue purity is to walk in the light. Read together 1 John 1:5-10. How does John teach us to walk in the light as Christians?
4. What role should fear of God play in our own lives? Refer to these passages: Leviticus 10:1-7; 2 Samuel 6:5-11; and 2 Kings 5:19-27. What do these passages say about God's commitment to holiness and right worship?
5. Shaping Question: Are you pursuing purity and fighting hypocrisy in your heart?

**PRAY:** Acknowledge the Lord for His holiness and adore Him for it. Confess the ways in your own life where you've been a hypocrite and have not been pure. Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus and His saving grace. And ask that the Lord would continue to make you more and more holy like Jesus.