

ONE CONVERSATION

***Parents:** Read Acts 4:36–5:11, then begin to have the conversation with your student about sin and the importance of the motives in our hearts. Compare and contrast Barnabas' story and the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Evaluate your own life to see who you are most like. Does your heart look more like Barnabas' or like Ananias and Sapphira's heart? Take an honest look at your own life and confess any sin. God takes sin very seriously, and we should as well. This begins with having an accurate view of ourselves, and knowing we are nothing without Him.*

Evaluate your heart and your motives behind giving. Everything we have is God's already, but we must examine our hearts and be truly generous and willing to sacrifice things for His glory. Take some time to talk with your son or daughter about gratitude and thanks. When we realize all that Christ has done for us on the cross, we should be more than willing to give our time and money to Him, and to serve Him alone.

CENTRAL TRUTH

God holds us accountable for our hearts toward giving and takes sin seriously.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Barnabas sold a piece of land he owned and gave all the proceeds to the church. It was a genuine act of sacrifice. Ananias and Sapphira, however, sold a piece of property for a profit, maintained access to the property after the sale, and then came to the church pretending to have made a sacrifice similar to Barnabas' gift. We are to give authentically out of cheerful hearts and not out of showiness. We serve a God who judges sin and who takes holiness seriously.
- › **Memorize:** Acts 4:33
- › **Pray:** If you can make such a proclamation honestly, declare to God that you will give everything He asks of you in exchange for His kingdom because you know it is worth it. Ask Him to give you wisdom and discernment to know what to give, whether financially or of your time and service. Commit to God that you will be generous just as Barnabas was. Thank Him for His grace. Thank God for His forgiveness and for the gift of His Son, Jesus. If you feel led to, kneel in reverence and in awe of His holiness.