

## ACTS – The Worst Story

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Acts 4:36-5:16

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### Reflection & Discussion Questions

#### **Sin is a bigger deal to God than we may think**

It always kills and destroys us.

Read and discuss Acts 5:1-11 (NIV)

***5** Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. **2** With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.*

***3** Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? **4** Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."*

***5** When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. **6** Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.*

***7** About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"*

*"Yes," she said, "that is the price."*

***9** Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."*

***10** At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **11** Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.*

\*What does this passage tell us about God? About people?

\*What can we learn about sin and our deeper issue of brokenness?

\*What desire you've chased, independent of God, has destroyed or killed something in your life?

#### **Righteousness and holiness are not about more effort**

It is learning to trust Jesus about who you are

\*Why doesn't willpower work long term?

Take time with the list of attractions and aversions

\*Is there anything on this list I connect with?

\*For each thing you circled finish this sentence: I crave or avoid \_\_\_\_\_ (that thing) to prove to myself that I am or that I am not \_\_\_\_\_

\*What would it look like to trust Jesus not just for eternal life but also for who I am in this area?

Extra Credit: Can I remember the first time that I started thinking this way about myself? And is there a way to invite Jesus into that story?

|                               |                      |  |                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Attraction: I crave...</b> |                      | <b>Aversion: I compulsively avoid...</b> |                              |
| Anger                         | Fantasies            | Popularity                               | Anger                        |
| Approval                      | Friends              | Power                                    | Animals                      |
| Attractiveness                | Gambling             | Psychotherapy                            | Being abnormal               |
| Being good                    | Gossiping            | Responsibility                           | Being alone                  |
| Being helpful                 | Groups               | Revenge                                  | Being discounted             |
| Being loved                   | Guilt                | Seductiveness                            | Being overweight             |
| Being nice                    | Happiness            | Self-image                               | Being judged                 |
| Being right                   | Hobbies              | Self-improvement                         | Being overwhelmed            |
| Being taken care of           | Humor                | Self-contempt                            | Being thin                   |
| Calendars                     | Images of God        | Sex                                      | Being tricked                |
| Children                      | Intimacy             | Shoplifting                              | Blood                        |
| Cleanliness                   | Jealousy             | Sleeping                                 | Boredom                      |
| Comparison                    | Knowledge            | Soft drinks                              | Bridges                      |
| Competence                    | Lying                | Sports                                   | Closed-in spaces             |
| Competition                   | Marriage             | Status                                   | Commitment                   |
| Contests                      | Meeting expectations | Stock market                             | Conflict                     |
| Depression                    | Memories             | Stress                                   | Crowds                       |
| Dreams                        | Messiness            | Suspiciousness                           | Darkness                     |
| Drinking                      | Money                | Talking                                  | Death                        |
| Drugs                         | Movies               | Time                                     | Dependence                   |
| Eating                        | Music                | Weight                                   | Dirt                         |
| Envy                          | Neatness             | Winning                                  | Disapproval                  |
| Exercise                      | Performance          | Work                                     |                              |
| Fame                          | Pets                 | Worthiness                               |                              |
| Family                        | Politics             |  |                              |
|                               |                      |  | Doctors                      |
|                               |                      |  | Embarrassment                |
|                               |                      |  | Evil spirits                 |
|                               |                      |  | Failure                      |
|                               |                      |  | Fire                         |
|                               |                      |  | Germs                        |
|                               |                      |  | Guilt                        |
|                               |                      |  | Illness                      |
|                               |                      |  | Independence                 |
|                               |                      |  | Intimacy                     |
|                               |                      |  | Needles                      |
|                               |                      |  | Open spaces                  |
|                               |                      |  | Pain                         |
|                               |                      |  | People of different beliefs  |
|                               |                      |  | People of different class    |
|                               |                      |  | People of different culture  |
|                               |                      |  | People of different politics |
|                               |                      |  | People of different race     |
|                               |                      |  | People of different religion |
|                               |                      |  | People of different s        |
|                               |                      |  | People who are addicted      |
|                               |                      |  | People who are competent     |
|                               |                      |  | People who are fat/thin      |
|                               |                      |  | People who are ignorant      |
|                               |                      |  | People who are neat/messy    |
|                               |                      |  | People who are rich/poor     |
|                               |                      |  | Public speaking              |
|                               |                      |  | Rejection                    |
|                               |                      |  | Responsibility               |
|                               |                      |  | Sex                          |
|                               |                      |  | Strangers                    |
|                               |                      |  | Success                      |
|                               |                      |  | Tests                        |
|                               |                      |  | Traffic                      |
|                               |                      |  | Tunnels                      |
|                               |                      |  | Vulnerability                |
|                               |                      |  | Water                        |
|                               |                      |  | Writing                      |