

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS

Lesson 1 - Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5v1-11)

Introduction

WELCOME everyone! We are excited to be teaching you this year. We are going to look at some minor characters mentioned in the New Testament. Can anyone think of a minor character in the NT?

Just a few classroom “rules” to start ...

- We expect everyone to listen carefully and participate.
- If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand.
- Please don't speak while others are speaking.
- Please try and go to the bathroom before class starts.
- Have fun being together and learn lots!

What we are looking at this week

- I decided to focus on characters that are in the Acts of the Apostles ... plus two extra from a tiny book towards the end of our Bible ... Philemon and Onesimus. More about that later.
- Some of the characters we are going to look at we know more about than others ... but we plan to take lessons from the lives of each of the characters.
- We are going to put together a lapbook (show example) during the week. On the back, I would like you to write a key lesson from each of characters we look at it.

Background

- The first two people we are going to look at are husband and wife and they are not a good example for us to follow ... Ananias and Sapphira.
- Who knows what they did?
- So we are at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles and the ecclesia is getting bigger and bigger each day. The apostles spent their time preaching and teaching ... they didn't have time to work or earn money.
- Some people decided to sell their houses and land and bring the money to the apostles ... to share with those in need.

The Lie

- Ananias and Sapphira sold some land and gave PART of the money to the apostles.
- There was nothing wrong with only giving part of the money ... but A&S pretended they gave ALL the money. They wanted to be praised by the apostles for being so kind and generous.
- But this was a lie ... because they had kept some for themselves.
- Let's see what God says about lying (have a child read the following passages):
 - Proverbs 12v22 – lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.
 - Psalm 119v163 – I hate and abhor lying: *but* thy law do I love.

What Happened to A&S

- Peter had the power of the Holy Spirit and by this power he was able to tell Ananias was not telling the truth.
- He asked him why he did this ... he did HAVE to give all the money from the land? Why lie about it?
- Peter said he hadn't just lied to MEN, he had lied to GOD.
- Ananias then fell down dead in front of everyone! Some young men came and bound him up in grave clothes and he was carried out to be buried.
- This all happened without Sapphira knowing about it ... then 3 hours later she came in to Peter.
- Peter asked her if she sold the land for a certain amount ... and she answered "yes".
- She told a lie too ... so A&S had both worked together on this plan to tell a lie!
- Peter asked why they did this to deceive God. He then said that the men who buried her husband were at the door and would now carry her out.
- Sapphira then fell down dead and was buried next to Ananias!
- Everyone was afraid when they heard these things. God wanted to show the seriousness of the matter!

Main Lessons for Us

- God knows all our thoughts and motives ... nothing is hid from Him.
- God does not lying! So important to tell the truth!
- It's important to be generous with our things ... but not to receive the praise of men.

Activity – Brown-Es

- Put a bunch of "Es" cut out on brown construction paper in a pan with alfoil on top.
- Tell the kids you worked hard and made brownies ... and wanted to share them with you.
- Take the alfoil off the corner and start giving out the Es to some of the kids ... see their reaction!
- How do they feel? Ask if it was honest for me to do this?
- Did I need to bring brownies for everyone? No – but I tricked you into thinking I did which isn't right!

Lapbook items

- *Heart flap – God sees in our heart.*
- *Honest or Dishonest? accordion flap.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 2 - Stephen (Acts 6 and 7)

Introduction and Review of Day 1

- Who was the couple we learnt about yesterday?
- What did they do that was wrong?
- What was their punishment?

Help Chosen for the Apostles

- The apostles were busy preaching and looking after the ecclesia ... 7 men chosen to help them care for other people. One of them was Stephen.
- Stephen was an amazing example ... full of faith and the Holy Spirit ... and knew what was written in the Bible.
- Stephen also did some amazing miracles ... but the leaders of the Jews refused to believe ... even though Stephen had clear answers for them!

Stephen Before the Council

- These wicked Jews found men who were willing to tell lies about Stephen. They said Stephen had said bad words about Moses and God.
- They stirred up the people, the rulers and scribes ... and dragged Stephen before the council.
- The Jews were very proud of their Temple that Herod built. What had Jesus done to the Temple? (Thrown out all those who bought and sold in it.)
- Stephen told the Jews that Jesus had said the Temple would one day be completely destroyed ... the Jews DID NOT like this and were very angry with Stephen.
- They all glared at him and his face was like the face of an angel!
- The high priest asked Stephen if these things were so?
- How do you think you would feel if you were dragged by an angry mob of people before some rulers? And then had to talk about what you believed? Stephen was not afraid to speak the truth!

Stephen's Speech

- Stephen then gave a little history of the Jewish people.
- He told them about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob ... God promised them the land of Israel for ever.
- He then spoke about Moses and how he had led the children of Israel out of Egypt and safely through the wilderness.
- Then he spoke about Joshua who led them into the Promised Land. There was no Temple then – but these faithful people still worshipped God!
- God doesn't live in Temples made with hands ... He is everywhere by His spirit!

Stephen is Killed

- The members of the Sanhedrin so ANGRY with Stephen and what he was saying ... ground their teeth together.
- Stephen looked up to the heaven and saw God's glory, with Jesus standing at God's right hand.
- When the Sanhedrin heard this they put their hands over their ears and rushed at Stephen – they didn't want to hear any more.
- They grabbed hold of Stephen and dragged him out of the city.
- Took off their coats and laid them at Saul's feet and picked up stones and threw them at Stephen.
- Imagine that ... all because he spoke the truth and those things he believed!
- As he had stones thrown at him, he prayed to God and asked God to forgive those throwing stones at him!
- What a wonderful example of loving those who hate us!
- So Stephen died a very cruel death ... and faithful friends went and buried him.

Main Lessons for Us

- Stephen was dedicated to the things of God.
- Stephen was not ashamed to speak the truth and what he believed.
- How did Stephen learn so much about the faithful of old? He read his bible and took the time to study it.
- Are we able to forgive those who aren't nice to us ... or those who say mean things to us? Remember the example of Stephen.

Activity – Practice Forgiveness and Clean our Heart

- Mark a heart on the floor with chalk (or tape).
- Put a bunch of cards in the heart with hurtful things children might do to each other (ie. lying, pushing, calling someone a name, being selfish, cheating in a game etc).
- On the opposite of the room, place a bucket / basket.
- Tell the kids when someone does something wrong to us, it hurts. But Jesus tells us to forgive them – just like Stephen did.
- Have the kids line up on the opposite side of the room from the heart.
- Take it in turns to run over to the heart and bring back a piece of paper ... read it in front of everyone then throw it in the bucket / basket and say "I forgive you".

Lapbook items

- *Flap book with questions about Stephen.*
- *Find rock at camp and write "FORGIVE" on it ... put in pocket.*
- *Stephen puppet.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 3 - Tabitha, Lydia (Acts 9v36-42, Acts 16v12-15)

Introduction and Review of Day 2

- Who was the man we learnt about yesterday?
- What was one characteristic you remember about Stephen?
- How did Stephen die?

Intro to Tabitha

- Today we are going to talk about two women ... Tabitha and Lydia. What do you know about each woman?
- Tabitha lived in Joppa. In the Greek language – her name was Dorcas.
- Tabitha did many wonderful things for other people, especially those in need. She was also a believer!
- She not only believed ... she put her belief into action and showed those around her she was a believer.
- She served those around her ... just like Christ “*came not to be served but to serve*” (Matt 20v28). She put others first.
- How can we be helpful? What are some things we can do for Dad and Mum to help them? How can we help our friends in the meeting? What can we do at Sunday School to be helpful?

Tabitha Gets Sick and Dies

- Tabitha became very sick and died. The B&S were sad.
- They remembered Peter was staying nearby in Lydda ... they knew Peter could help ... had heard about the other miracles he had done!
- They sent two men to go and tell Peter to come straight away. Peter left right away.
- The B&S had laid Tabitha in an upper room – Peter went up to where she was.
- Widows stood around crying. They showed Peter the clothes Tabitha had made and told him about the things she had done.
- Peter sent everyone out of the room and knelt to God in pray. It was only by God’s power he could raise Tabitha.
- He turned to Tabitha’s body lying there and said, “*Tabitha, arise!*” She opened her eyes and when she saw Peter she sat up.
- Peter called everyone back into the room again! How happy they were to see Tabitha alive and well again!
- They rejoiced and praised God for His mighty power. They also told lots of people in Joppa what had happened, so more people believed the gospel now!

Intro to Lydia

- Lydia lived in Philippi.
- There was no synagogue here ... people met by the river to pray. There were only a few Jews living in Philippi – it was a Roman colony and mainly made up of Romans and Greeks.

Lydia is Baptised

- On the Sabbath day, Paul and Silas went out to the river ... thought it would be a good place to preach.
- There were only women gathered there ... Paul and Silas still spoke to them.
- One lady who was listening was called Lydia. She sold purple cloth and dye – that’s what her job was.
- Lydia already worshipped God and was glad to hear what Paul and Silas had to say! She listened carefully to their words ... God opened her heart to believe and she was soon baptised ... as well as other people in our house!
- She really wanted Paul to stay at her house. It seems as though Paul didn’t want to go at first – he didn’t want to be a hassle to anyone. But Lydia kept asking ... she was very hospitable and friendly and wanted to show her thankfulness to Paul!

Main Lessons for Us

- Can those around us see who we are by how we act and how we help others?
- Peter remembered to pray to God before he performed the miracle. Do we ask God for help?
- Lydia was so keen to learn and listen to the things of the gospel. We need to have an open ear and mind, to listen to the things of God.
- Are we friendly and kind towards other people? Are we so willing to share with others, like Lydia?

Activity – Make Purple Paper for a Card

- Dye a piece of paper purple (with paint or food colouring).
- On the following day, write on the cards.

Lapbook items

- *“Peter Raises Tabitha” wheel with Tabitha questions. Glue dress cut out on front of wheel.*
- *“Tabitha helped others, so can _____” accordion flap.*
- *Lydia flower flap.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 4 - Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18v1-11)

Introduction and Review of Day 3

- Who were the two ladies we learned about yesterday?
- What was the lesson we learned from each of them?
- How can we be more friendly to those around us?

Intro to Aquila and Priscilla

- A&P were husband and wife ... lived in Corinth ... both loved the Bible.
- Aquila means “Eagle”, Priscilla means “little old woman”.

Tentmakers

- A&P earned money by making tents. Who else was a tentmaker? Paul!
- On Paul’s second missionary journey, he went to visit Corinth.
- Paul worked together with A&P. You can imagine them talking about the scriptures while they worked ... and preaching to anyone who was there listening!
- The ecclesia met in the house of A&P (1 Cor 16v19).
- Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months. When he left, A&P went with him as far as Ephesus.

Apollos

- While A&P were in Ephesus a man called Apollos came to teach in the synagogue there. He was from Alexandria, Egypt.
- Apollos was a great teacher and told people about Jesus!
- But there was one problem ... A&P realised he was only telling part of the gospel. Apollos didn’t know the new meaning of being baptised.
- Apollos was teaching people about what John the Baptist used to teach.
- A&P are a great example of dealing with a problem ... they didn’t correct him and embarrass him in front of everyone ... they dealt with the problem privately.
- They invited Apollos to their house and explained the new meaning to him ... how Jesus died on the cross and was raised.
- People could now be baptised into the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the Messiah!
- So now Apollos was an even better teacher and he could encourage others in the true Gospel message.
- He travelled to Corinth, where A&P first met Paul ... and was able to help the ecclesia there.

Risked their Lives

- It seems like A&P risked their lives for Paul. We don't know any of the details, but Paul writes about it in Romans.
- **Romans 16v3-4** – *“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.”*
- Paul calls them “my helpers in Christ Jesus”.

Main Lessons for Us

- So important to have like-minded friends ... in the meeting. Friends who can help us to the Kingdom, not pull us away.
- A&P are a wonderful example of a husband and wife working together.
- They weren't afraid to risking their lives for Paul.
- A&P show us a great example of dealing with a problem in the meeting ... and by their actions, they were able to encourage Apollos in the true Gospel!
- Support others in their work in the Truth.

Activity – Write on Card

- Glue "Thinking of You" words on the front of the card.
- Write a message on the cards made yesterday.

Lapbook items

- *Pentagon shutter flap – friends in the Truth.*
- *Puzzle.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 5 - Philemon and Onesimus (Philemon)

Introduction and Review of Day 4

- Who was the husband and wife we learned about yesterday?
- What did they do for a job?
- Who was the person A&P and to preach the true gospel to ?

Background on Philemon

- Letter written by Paul when he was in prison in Rome.
- Letter also addressed to Apphia (possibly Philemon's wife), Archippus (fellow soldier – maybe Philemon's son) and the ecclesia in Philemon's house.

Facts about Philemon

- Probably wealthy – meeting was held in his home (big enough for that), he also owned slaves.
- Lived in Colossae ([Col 4v17](#), cp [Phil v2](#) – mentions Archippus in both verses).
- [Bible marking activity - colour in verses about characteristics of Philemon:](#)
 - [V1](#) – is a believer and serves other believers
 - [V5](#) – love and faith towards Jesus and all the saints
 - [V7](#) – believers have been refreshed through him
 - [V21](#) – obedient

What Happened to Onesimus

- Onesimus was a slave of Philemon's.
- Perhaps he got tired of working as a slave and he stole something from Philemon and ran away.
- In his travels he went to Rome and crossed paths with Paul.
- Paul shared the gospel with Onesimus and he believed and changed from his ways.
- Onesimus realised he must return to Philemon and ask for forgiveness for what he had done.
- Paul writes this letter to Philemon and the ecclesia that met in his home, to ask them to accept Onesimus back – not as a slave, but as a brother!
- We don't know if Philemon forgave him or not, but we pray that he did and that he accepted Onesimus as a brother in Christ.
- Given Paul's description of Philemon that we talked about earlier, we would like to think he was a Godly man who would forgive Onesimus.

Main Lessons for Us

- If someone upsets / offends us – we should forgive them.
- Do we pray for other believers?
- People can do wrong things and then repent from their bad ways. A great lesson to learn from Onesimus about repenting.
- We need to also forgive others and move on if they have done something bad and asked for forgiveness.

Lapbook items

- *Sequence flap.*
- *Forgive from the heart hand outline.*