

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

February 9, 2020

"Acts" 4:36 - 5:15

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at cbclife.org/groups or call the church office at 408.288.4115.

Quick Review

Reminder: Don't feel the need to get to every question. Use this resource as a guide but feel free to ask questions that may be related to the topic but have some special applicability to your group.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

This section is intended to do a few things. First we want to get people talking. There are many acceptable answers to these questions. Some people may remember a verse, others an illustration. By rehashing various aspects of the sermon your group will be able to remind each other what was taught and this serves to anchor the rest of your time near the text or topic that was discussed.

2. What was one thing that stuck out to you from Sunday's message?

My Story

This section is also intended to engender participation. Providing a space for your group to reflect autobiographically will encourage people to share. Feel free to adapt these questions or ask your own.

1. This past Sunday Pastor Jeff talked about how many people are wounded in the Church. Have you ever experienced this? What was that experience like?

As a leader be careful not to let this turn into a "gripe fest". The point of the question is to help your group recognize that many people are hurt in the church and that it is to be expected. A follow up question might be "why did you decide to continue to attend church?"

3. Pastor Jeff taught that, for all her shortcomings, the local church is still the beautiful bride of Christ. Do you agree? Why/why not?

Digging Deeper

Read Acts chapter 4:36–5:15

1. Take a closer look at 5:1-12 and see if you can answer the following questions:

- What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

It might appear that the sin was chiefly greed but vv. 3,4, & 9 all indicate that the main sin is deceitfulness.

- Why was it so serious and so seriously dealt with?

Being that God does not typically deal with sin in this way we can safely assume that this pattern is special as opposed to normative. What is unique about this set of circumstances is that this occurred in the first few months the church existed. It is probable that God dealt so severely with this sin because the early church was fragile and the attitudes of Ananias and Sapphira would have destroyed the new community.

- How can we fall into a similar trap?

This question can be very subjective. Ultimately, Ananias and Sapphira either never grasped the Gospel or they lost sight of it. Their quest to buy the esteem of the community demonstrates that Jesus wasn't their psychological center. Rather, the approval of their peers was penultimate for them.

- How can we avoid it?

A deep, Spirit filled, understanding of the Gospel will help us to keep Jesus as our ultimate goal.

4. Take a close look at 5:12-42. Survey this long passage and make a list of the characteristics of a spiritually vital church.

Miracles attended the message (vv. 12)

They met together (vv. 12)

They were highly regarded (vv. 13)

People brought them their sick (vv. 14)

They were viewed as powerful (vv. 13, 16)

Endured persecution (vv. 17, 18, 40)

Gospel proclamation (vv. 21, 42)

Obedience (vv. 29)

They were rejoicing (vv. 41)

5. Read the following verse and see if your group can answer two basic questions.

- What do you think the passage meant to the original hearers?
- What does this passage mean to us here and now?

Romans 12:4-5,

This was meant to address the division of labor in the early church. It is likely that some positions were esteemed above others and there may have been jealousy and division cropping up.

Hebrews 10:24-25,

This references the daily meal that believers shared. Apparently, it got off to a good start and some people stopped tiding consistently. The writer of Hebrews wants Christians to meet frequently so that they will "spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Hebrews 13:7,

Hebrews was written to Hellenized Jews who were wrestling with Jesus claim of divinity. The author is imploring the hearers to remember who Jesus is. The author also sites the Apostles way of life and powerful ministry as a further "proof" for the Christian claims.

Ephesians 4:11-13,

This passage shows the role of clergy in equipping "rank and file" believers to be the stewards of the Christian message. This shows us that evangelism isn't the Provenance of paid ministry staff.

Ephesians 5:25-30,

This passage shows us that Jesus loves the church. If we are conforming the image of Christ we too should love the church.

Galatians 6:10

This passage illustrates the Biblical mandate to care for others. It also gives priority to Christian brothers and sisters.

Tip: If you missed Sundays sermon you can rewatch the livestream on Facebook. We typically have the video posted to YouTube by Monday. You can access past sermon videos on our webpage at <https://cbclife.org/sermons>

You can also download this weeks Growth Group curriculum on our webpage at <https://cbclife.org/groups>

TAKING IT HOME

1. Pray about joining a Growth Group this semester.
2. Read Isaiah 35 and meditate on what it will be like when; *"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy."*