

Small Group Guide

Week of August 31, 2025



Icebreaker



- If you had to give yourself a nickname based on your personality, what would it be?
- If you suddenly came into \$10,000, what's the first thing you'd want to do with it?



Discussion Questions



- Why do you think boldness for the early church looked like generosity instead of just speaking up?
- "Grace moves you from clutching to sharing." What does that look like in your life right now?
- Barnabas lived open-handedly, while Ananias and Sapphira pretended. Why do you think God takes hypocrisy so seriously?
- What are some subtle ways we might "fake it" spiritually in today's culture?
- How do comparison and envy — like comparing our "flour to someone else's chocolate" — rob us of joy and generosity?
- Authentic faith says, "By the grace of God, I'm still in process." What's one area where you need to give yourself permission to be honest about where you are?
- How can we create a small group environment where confession and vulnerability are met with grace rather than shame?
- When someone confesses sin to you, what's your natural response? How does the message challenge you to respond differently?
- What's one thing you're holding tightly that God might be inviting you to release?
- How can generosity — of time, resources, forgiveness, or presence — become a spiritual practice in your life this week?
- After hearing this message, what's one practical way you can pursue authentic faith over polished appearances?



Thought for the Group



In Acts 4:32–35, we see the early church unified — their hearts and minds aligned, their possessions held loosely, and their generosity flowing freely. Their boldness wasn't just in preaching or speaking up; it was revealed through open-handed living.

The message contrasted two powerful examples. First, Barnabas, who willingly sold his land and surrendered not just his resources but also his security and identity, living fully surrendered to God. His generosity was authentic, fueled by grace, not guilt or pressure. Then we meet Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1–11. They wanted the reputation of generosity without the reality of surrender. They presented part of the proceeds as though it were the whole, seeking approval from others rather than living honestly before God. Their deception wasn't about the amount they gave — Peter made it clear the money was theirs to manage — but about the lie they told and the hypocrisy in their hearts. God used this pivotal moment to establish that His presence is holy and cannot be treated casually. When we choose authenticity over image, we create a community where confession is safe, grace is abundant, and God's presence is honored. That kind of authenticity is compelling to a world tired of polished appearances — and it's how the gospel shines brightest.



Next Steps



- This week, choose one area of your life where you've been tempted to "keep up appearances" — whether it's your faith, relationships, or finances — and take one step toward honesty. That could look like admitting a struggle to God in prayer, being vulnerable with a trusted friend, or simply letting go of the pressure to "look perfect." Authentic faith starts with living unhidden.
- Reflect on what God has placed in your hands and ask Him to show you one way to give boldly this week. It doesn't have to be big, but it should cost you something and make you lean on God's grace.