

**PETER STANDS UP FOR TRUTH AND HONESTY**

Acts 5:1-11

After Pentecost when so many learned to believe and follow Jesus, there was joy and peace, in spite of the rulers; and it was like a bit of heaven in the busy world. The people shared with one another, and when one had more than another, he sold what he had and divided with those who were poor. Some sold very valuable things and brought large gifts to the disciples.

Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, wanted the honor of bringing a generous gift, so they sold a piece of land. Instead of gladly giving it all, they kept back part of the money. Proudly Ananias carried in his gift and laid it at the disciples' feet, pretending that he was giving all the money that he had received for his land. But God knew what Ananias and his wife were doing, and Peter knew.

"Ananias," said Peter sadly, "why did you do this thing? The money was yours to keep if you wanted it."

A lie is such a terrible thing that we do not like even to speak the word, but Peter said, "You have told a lie, not to us, but to God." And Ananias fell dead at the feet of the disciples.

By and by Sapphira came—perhaps wondering why Ananias stayed away so long. Peter asked her about the gift,

