

Lesson—Our Lesson story is about a man and his wife who *acted a lie*. They kept back part of what they pretended they were giving.

The Big Family—Do you remember we said that the first friends of Jesus were just like one big family? They helped one another. Those who had money, helped those who were poor, so that none of them lacked anything needful. Those who had houses and lands, sold them and brought the money to the apostles, to be divided as these thought best.

A True Disciple—Barnabas, one of Jesus' friends, who came from the island of Cyprus, owned a piece of land (draw a square), and after he became a disciple he sold the land and gave the money (round pieces of paper) to the apostles, to help to get food, etc., for this big family of Jesus' friends.

A False Disciple—Ananias was another who said he was a friend of Jesus. He, too, had a piece of land (square), and sold it. His wife's name was Sapphira, and they said to each other, as they looked at the money (round pieces of paper) which they had received for the land, "This is too much to give to the apostles. Let us 'keep back' some for ourselves". So they kept back

some of the money, and Ananias took the rest and gave it to the apostles, pretending that it was all he had got for the land.

Ananias and Sapphira Punished—Peter knew that Ananias was keeping back some money, that he was "acting a lie". Peter said, "Why did you let Satan tempt you to do this? You have not lied to men, but to God". As Peter said this, Ananias fell down dead, and everybody wondered and feared greatly at what had happened. Then the young men carried Ananias out and buried him. Three hours after this, Sapphira came. Peter asked her about the money which she and her husband had got for selling the land, and she told a lie about it, just as her husband had done. Peter told her how she and Ananias had sinned against God, and how Ananias had been punished; and Sapphira, too, fell down dead, and was buried beside her husband. You see God always punishes sin. He hates sin.

Our Verse (all repeat)—

"God is in heaven, would He know,

If I should tell a lie?

Yes; though I said it very low,

He'd hear it in the sky."

Something to Think About—God hates lying.

FROM THE PLATFORM
By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

WHY
HOW
WHAT

GIVE?

Have a chat with the scholars about Christian giving, putting down on the blackboard the points touched. First, *Why Give?* (Print). Recall the contrast in the Lesson between those who gave out of love to Christ and those about them, and Ananias and Sapphira, who gave merely for the sake of being well thought of. Emphasize love as the motive of all right giving. Next, *How give?* Remind the scholars how the early disciples brought their money to the apostles, who were best fitted to use it to the greatest advantage. So, in our church, there are officers and committees, who lay wise plans for spending the money we give in such a way that it will do the most good. We can safely trust them to make the most of our gifts. Lastly, *What give?* The question will arise, Should we, like many of the early disciples, give all we have? Two principles may be laid down: (1) All we have belongs to God. (2) We should give a fair proportion to His work.