

# 06 A HOLY PEOPLE

KEY TEXT: ACTS 4:36–5:11

## CENTRAL truth

The early church experienced had opposition from outside itself. Now, they experienced opposition from within. Although sin reared its ugly head, we are reminded that **God acts to preserve and protect His people from evil.**

## key question

How do we see God's care for the church in this passage?

The church is the family of God. As His family, God demonstrated His fatherly protection by swiftly dealing with the sin that threatened the early church. Whether from outside of the church or inside of it, God does not turn a blind eye toward evil.

## keep in mind

- Many people struggle with God's judgement of Ananias and Sapphira, and students are likely to be no different. Using this week's **Context Note**, remind students of God's holiness and sin's seriousness. The Spirit indwells God's people, thereby making us His temple. This couple tested the Lord and dishonored His dwelling place—a crime that God could not let go unaddressed.
- Barnabas was an encouragement to the early church whose faithfulness is contrasted with Ananias and Sapphira's unfaithfulness. Being an encourager was at the core of his reputation. Give students the opportunity to reflect on ways they can bring encouragement and refreshment to people around them who need it.

## application

What does it mean for us to have a healthy fear of the Lord?

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** The student should leave this week's session knowing that the Holy Spirit resides within God's people, making us His temple. This truth should shape the way we engage with Him, see ourselves, and see other believers.

**FOR THE LEADER:** This week's text will be difficult for some students. As you walk them through the central truth, take advantage of the **Be Vulnerable** note. Students need to see that it's okay to wrestle with Scripture and ask difficult questions, and sharing examples from your life can help them to grasp this truth.

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