



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 6: Accountable
Suggested Week of Use: July 7, 2024
Core Passage: Acts 4:36–5:11

News Story Summary

Earlier this year, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont found himself in the center of a scandal. It didn't involve money, interest groups, lobbyists, or political rivals. It was all about trees.

According to news reports, Lamont admitted that he was part of a group that hired a landscaping company to cut down more than 180 trees and thousands of shrubs behind their Greenwich homes. The problem was that the trees were in an area designated as protected wetlands. It was also revealed that the company failed to secure the proper permits for the project.

The event occurred in November 2023, but Lamont had not spoken about it publicly until late April. He told reporters that the trees were dead after being damaged by storms and that the work was done to clean up the area. The governor denied any intentional wrongdoing and has promised to take steps to restore the affected area.

For more about this story, search “Connecticut governor cuts down trees.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, give adults a piece of paper and a pen. Direct them to work in pairs, using their cell phones to find stories about taking responsibility or accepting/refusing accountability. Encourage them to write sentence summaries of the stories they find. After a few minutes, allow volunteers to share their work. Spend some time discussing common themes in the news accounts. Share the story of Governor Lamont and his controversy surrounding trees. (You can also use online video footage if you choose.) Ask: *How is this story similar or different than the other stories we've highlighted?* Share that this session focuses on being accountable before God for our actions and why that's important.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, recall the story of Governor Lamont and the trees. Ask: *How is the story of Ananias and Sapphira similar to Lamont's story?* Point out that God calls people to accountability, beginning with followers of Jesus. Say: *While Ananias and Sapphira misused finances, the application is much broader.* Encourage the group to suggest ways God holds us accountable in other areas. Ask: *Why is it important to accept responsibility for our actions? What is the danger of refusing to be held accountable?* Give the group a moment of silence to talk with God about areas in which they need to accept responsibility for their actions or attitudes. Close the session in prayer.