

ICB COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY

WHAT WE DO: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

The message last Sunday, continued our series "What We Do". Pastor John talked about some of the believers from the first church; Joseph, Ananias and Sapphira. He challenged us to look at the conditions of our hearts and reject the "mine" mentality that we can so easily fall into.

START

- Choose 2 or 3 different people in your group to explain a particular topic (eg. *their last vacation/holiday, a great gift they have been given, what their plans are for the summer*) for one minute without saying the words "I, me, my, myself". Afterwards talk about how hard or easy it was to do, and why.

SHARE

READ ACTS 4:36- 5:11

- Compare Joseph's actions and attitudes with those of Ananias and Sapphira. How are they similar and how are they different?
- What did Ananias and Sapphira do that was not consistent with the Christian community and what it stood for? What affect did it have on the church?
- In what ways do we lie to each other within the body of Christ? How can we change this? Why is honesty with ourselves and others so important to God?
- How does this story demonstrate the high value God places on truth and unity within the church?

READ LUKE 12: 13-21

This parable looks at a man who had a lot of wealth and possessions but did not handle it well.

- What was this man's error?
- What was Jesus' point in this parable?
- Why is greed and entitlement such a dangerous mentality?
- What does being "rich towards God" look like to you?

GROW

- In what ways are we not property "owners" but property "stewards" of what we have? What are the implications of this for our lives?

- Jesus states that high human values tend to be the things most detestable to God. How can we know that we have really conformed our lives to God's values rather than just kidding ourselves?
- Most of us don't have a lot of money. How, therefore, can we be good stewards of what we have and yet generous at the same time?
- What is one (new) way you can be generous this next week?

PRAY

Ask God to help you be honest in every situation and relationship you find yourself in, even when it's difficult. Pray He would reveal to you any area of your life where you are holding on to an "entitlement" mentality, and pray He would help you replace it with a heart of generosity towards others.

GO

As we go into this week let us remember that everything we have comes from God and whatever our earthly situation is, we have more than enough as we live in Christ. As it says in 1 Timothy 6: 6-8: *Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.*

Read more about Joseph, Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 4:36- 5:11 and The Rich Fool in Luke 12:13-21.