

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

EMPOWERED – Session 5

Empowered for Holiness

Acts 5:1–16

SESSION FOCUS

The Holy Spirit was not given merely to create emotional experiences or dramatic moments.

The Holy Spirit transforms people.

Acts 5 confronts the difference between authentic spiritual transformation and outward religious performance. The story of Ananias and Sapphira reminds believers that God desires honesty, integrity, humility, and truthfulness.

This session explores holiness not as perfectionism or fear-based religion, but as openness to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

OPENING REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments before beginning.

- Why do people often feel pressure to appear “put together” spiritually?
- What makes honesty difficult?
- What is the difference between authenticity and oversharing?
- How do fear or shame affect spiritual life?

Personal Notes:

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Acts 5:1–16 slowly.

As you read, notice:

- emotional tone
 - repeated themes
 - contrasts within the passage
 - and what stands out most strongly.
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KEY IDEA

The Holy Spirit forms believers into people marked by integrity, honesty, humility, and ongoing transformation.

PART 1: GOD CARES ABOUT INTEGRITY

(Acts 5:1–11)

The deeper issue in this story is not money.

It is dishonesty and image management.

Reflection Questions

1. Why do people often fear honesty?
2. What causes spiritual performance in religious environments?
3. Why does integrity matter in spiritual life?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: HOLINESS IS NOT PERFECTIONISM

(1 John 1:5–9)

Holiness is not pretending struggle does not exist.

Spiritual growth begins with honesty before God.

Reflection Questions

4. What is the difference between conviction and shame?
5. Why do people sometimes hide spiritually?
6. How does honesty help spiritual growth?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: REVERENCE & HUMILITY

(Acts 5:11)

Acts 5 reminds believers that God's presence is holy and not casual.

Healthy reverence produces humility and attentiveness.

Reflection Questions

7. What emotions come to mind when you hear the word “holiness”?
8. How is reverence different from fear-based religion?
9. Why is humility important in spiritual life?

Personal Notes:

PART 4: TRANSFORMATION & WITNESS

(Acts 5:12–16)

Integrity strengthens Christian witness.

The Holy Spirit forms believers whose lives increasingly reflect Jesus.

Reflection Questions

10. How does integrity affect Christian witness?
11. Which fruit of the Spirit do you most long to see grow in your life?
12. Why does authenticity matter in spiritual community?

Personal Notes:

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments to reflect honestly.

- Where do you most struggle with image management or fear?
- What would greater honesty before God look like?
- How might the Holy Spirit be inviting you toward deeper authenticity?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for:

- honesty
- humility
- healing
- integrity
- and openness to transformation.

OPTIONAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

This week:

- Re-read Acts 5:1–16 daily
- Reflect honestly on areas of hiding or performance
- Pray:

“Holy Spirit, help me become truthful and open before God.”

- Practice one intentional act of honesty or humility

FINAL THOUGHT

Holiness is not spiritual performance.

Holiness is ongoing transformation through grace, honesty, surrender, and dependence on God.