

# Escape from Prison; No Escape from Lying

## Acts 5



New Testament 7  
Part 1: ABCs of Acts 1-6

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 5

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men'" (Acts 5:29).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Ananias and Sapphira"](#)
- ["God Wants Us to Obey"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [ABCs of Acts 1-12](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 7 Bible Facts")
- "Acts Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep 2](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/ Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- John the Baptist/Peter A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book)
- Acts 5:29 Poster (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=359>)
- Acts 5:29 Bookmark (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=362>)
- Ananias and Sapphira (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=305>)



- (DISCLAIMERS: remove “My goodness!” on p. 10 and “I bet” on p. 11)
- Songs from “Sing a Story” Volume III (Book of Acts Stories Sung to Familiar Tunes), by Jewel Kendrick

## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

People may make fun of me or dislike me because I go to church, won't use bad language, etc., but I will do what God wants me to do anyway.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

What do you think you would do if someone called you names or made fun of you because you believe in Jesus? That would make you sad, wouldn't it? In the book of Acts, Peter and John and the other apostles were even put in jail and mistreated because they wouldn't stop teaching about Jesus. But that didn't stop them! Let's see what happened to Peter and John in Acts chapter 5.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Has anyone ever made fun of you for doing the right thing, believing in Jesus, or not doing something wrong that others were encouraging you to do? (Let children tell examples of this.) If this has ever happened to you, then you have been **persecuted** for your faith in and obedience to Jesus.

The apostles were often terribly mistreated or put in prison for teaching others about Jesus. However, that did not stop them from showing their love for God and Jesus to other people. You and I probably won't go to jail for being a Christian today, but we may be mistreated or disliked by others just because we may act differently than they do and/or say we try to live for Jesus.



**NOTE:** With OLDER CHILDREN, discuss the meaning of **persecution**: from the Greek word meaning “to put to flight or to pursue.” In the first century, Christians were jailed, beaten, and/or put to death for believing in Jesus. Read together Matthew 5:10-11; John 15:18-20; 1 Peter 4:12-19.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review: “A” is for **ascension** of Jesus and a new **apostle** chosen. “B” is for **beginning** of the Church and **baptism** of 3,000. “C” is for **cripple cured** and **crowd** taught about Jesus. “D” is for **disciples in jail** and **disciples share**. “E” is for **escape** from prison and **no escape** from lying.
2. In chapter 4 we learned that Peter and John were put in jail after God healed a crippled man through them. They were released from jail the next day, however, and the Jewish leaders told them to stop preaching about Jesus. But Peter and John did not stop preaching and performing miracles. The Christians continued to worship on Solomon's porch at the Temple, trying to teach Jews who came to worship there. The Jewish leaders became more and more angry that

the followers of Jesus would not be quiet. The leaders were also jealous because of the crowds that were listening to the apostles.

3. The high priest ordered that the apostles be arrested and put in jail again. But during the night, an angel of the Lord opened the prison gates and helped them escape. The angel told them to go back to the Temple and continue to tell people about living for Jesus.
4. The next morning, the Jewish leaders sent soldiers to bring the apostles to them from jail. The soldiers returned with bad news: the prison doors were locked and the guards at their posts, but the apostles were not in the jail. They were at the Temple preaching again. The Jewish leaders were surprised and very angry! They sent soldiers to arrest them and bring them before the Council again.



**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The Council was the “Greater Sanhedrin,” a Jewish court designed to settle disagreements between Jews and to hand down judgments about the Mosaic Law. But the Council’s most important job was to investigate alleged disobedience to the Law, including blasphemy against the Law or against God, Himself. The Council had 71 members and two presidents. The two presidents were the high priest (who was over religious matters), and the head of the tribe of Judah (who was over secular matters). The Sanhedrin could punish Jews with fines, imprisonment, or beatings. But the Romans would not allow the Council to carry out capital punishment, i.e., the death penalty, which is why they sought Pilate’s help in killing Jesus. (Stephen’s martyrdom was the result of an out-of-control mob.)



**NOTE:** Peter’s statement (verse 31) that Jesus was at God’s right hand would have been another way to remind the Jews about Jesus’ resurrection.

5. Peter and the apostles were not afraid of anything the Jewish Council might decide to do to them. Peter spoke for the group, saying, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29, ESV). He told the Jews again that they were responsible for killing God’s Son, Jesus (the long-awaited Messiah), and they needed to **repent**.



**Repent:** To change your mind or the way you think about the things God says are wrong and choose not to do those things anymore. Repentance is turning around your life and going in another direction.

6. The Jews became very angry and wanted to kill these “troublemakers.” But a wise teacher of the Law named Gamaliel persuaded them not to. [Note what Gamaliel says in verses 38-39: “If this plan...is [the work] of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.”] The Jewish leaders listened to Gamaliel and decided to let the apostles go—after having them severely beaten and ordering them again not to teach any more about Jesus.
7. But once again, the apostles did not stop preaching and teaching. The same men who fled for their lives when the Jews came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:56) had learned to trust God and be willing to suffer persecution for following God. Jesus had warned them that they would be persecuted for teaching others about Him (John 15:20-21; 16:1-3). They were prepared to suffer if it meant that many more would learn about Jesus. They did not let the beatings stop them, and they rejoiced that they were “counted worthy to suffer shame” for Jesus (Acts 5:41).

8. If others make fun of you or mistreat you because you believe in God or because you don't make bad choices (follow the crowd), or because you go to church, what should you do or say? (Pray, ask for support from friends and family, read God's Word) [Talk with the children about other people mentioned in the Bible who were not afraid when they were persecuted for believing in and obeying God, such as Daniel and his three friends, Esther, Joshua, Moses, and Joseph. Encourage them to pray for our missionaries who endure a great deal of persecution and hardship in order to teach others about Jesus.]

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

**Ages 2-5:**

- [“Escape from Prison Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) page 5 provided in activity sheets)
- Write key words from the story on cards. Show the children the words; let the children repeat the words. Then let the children wait in the hall while you hide a duplicate set of the words around the room. When the children come back into the room, show them one word at a time, and let them find where that word is hidden. (Examples: apostles, arrested, jail, Lord, angel, Temple, council, Peter, etc.) ([“Key Word Cards”](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Let the children retell the story with stick or hand puppets.
- Discuss with the children Peter's statement, “We ought to obey God rather than men” and what that means for them. On small cards, write good things and bad things they do every day (e.g., obey parents, be nice to friends, share toys, tell others about Jesus, pitch a fit when Daddy says “no,” snatch toys from friends, etc.) Have two containers: one labeled “Obeying God” (or a happy face) and the other labeled “Not Obeying God” (or an unhappy face). Have the children decide in which container to put each card.

**1st-2nd Graders:**

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) page 5 provided in activity sheets)
- Play Hang Man with key words from this and previous lessons (examples: apostles, arrested, chains, Lord, angel, Temple, council, boldness, Peter and John, etc.)
- [“Persecuted? Persevere! Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Persecuted Preachers Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

**3rd-4th Graders:**

- Continue working on ABC's of Acts booklet.
- Play Hang Man with key words from this and previous lessons (examples: apostles, arrested, chains, Lord, angel, Temple, council, boldness, Peter and John, etc.)
- [“Persecuted? Persevere! Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Persecuted Preachers Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
  - Acts 5

- *Discovery* magazine article: “The Trouble with Lying” ([March, 2004](#))
- *Berenstain Bears and the Truth* book, by Stan and Jan Berenstain, Random House

## SONGS:

### “ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Rhonda Thompson  
(Tune: “On Top of Old Smokey”)

Ananias and Sapphira chose to sell some land they owned.  
But they lied to the apostles, and they lied to God above.

Be truthful to one another; keep your tongue from speaking lies.  
Never lie when you’re in trouble. Oh, be careful what you say!

Is it ever, is it ever, okay for me to lie?  
No, it’s never, never ever, okay for me to lie.

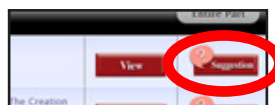
### “GOD WANTS US TO OBEY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*  
(Tune: “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”)

God wants us to obey Him.  
God wants us to obey Him.  
God wants us to obey Him.  
The Bible tells us so.

\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.





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Acts 5



New Testament 7  
Part 1: ABCs of Acts 1-6

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

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Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

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### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

People may make fun of me or dislike me because I go to church, won’t use bad language, etc., but I will do what God wants me to do anyway.

### INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 7 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 7 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday’s lesson (See [N.T. 7 Review Questions](#) for example questions), as well as other ABCs covered to this point.
2. In Acts 4 we can read about Barnabas selling some land and giving the money to help others; he was always ready to share and encourage others. Barnabas had a loving, unselfish heart. In Acts 5 we find out about two people who were the opposite of Barnabas: they were very selfish—and they lied to the apostles. [Tell the story of Ananias and Sapphira from Acts 5:1-10. Emphasize that there was nothing wrong with keeping all or some of the money. But Ananias and Sapphira planned together to lie to the apostles—and to God—apparently so that they would receive the same kind of praise and attention that Barnabas did. Talk with the children about not being concerned about getting attention and praise from men, but rather, from God. Talk about the importance of always telling the truth—and how lying destroys trust between friends, family members.]



**NOTE:** Since there were no chapter divisions originally when the Bible was written, the story of Ananias and Sapphira (5:1ff) follows immediately after the mention of Barnabas’ generosity (4:36), with the two stories being linked. Ananias and Sapphira’s lie was a direct response to Barnabas’ action and the result of it—likely the praise and attention he received for his generosity. Many sins can be linked to the desire for such praise and attention—what John calls the “pride of life” (1 John 2:16).

### PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson
- Play Tic Tac Toe with review questions over this and previous lessons

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