LESSON 12
LESSON AIM: To be encouraged to practice good stewardship in giving and sharing.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY OUTLINE

I. GENEROUS AND BENEVOLENT GIVING: ACTS 4:32-37

1. Describe the unity of the infant Christian community. Acts 4:32a

2. What did the apostles do through the Spirit’s power? Acts 4:33

3. How did the early church help take care of the needs of each other? Acts 4:32bc, 34-35; (2:44-45)

4. Who was Barnabas? What was his given name? What does his nickname mean? Acts 4:36

5. Why do you think Barnabas was so named by the apostles?


7. Was it mandatory for the early Christians to sell all their goods and property? Acts 4:34-35; 5:4

8. The Old Testament Jews gave based on the law of giving. What were the guidelines for giving under the Law? Deuteronomy 12:6, 11

9. What did the New Testament Christians base their giving on? 2 Corinthians 8:6b, 7b


| Matthew 6:3-4 | 1. Give secretly. |
| Acts 20:35 | 4. Give because it is more blessed to give than to receive. |
| 1 Corinthians 16:2 | 5. Give regularly and proportionally. |
| 2 Corinthians 8:5 | 6. Give yourself first to the Lord according to God’s will. |
| 2 Corinthians 8:6b,7b | 7. Give as an act of grace. |
| 2 Corinthians 8:7a | 8. Give excellently. |
| 2 Corinthians 8:8 | 9. Give sincerely. |
| 2 Corinthians 8:8 | 10. Give out of love. |
| 2 Corinthians 8:9 | 11. Give remembering the example of Christ. |
| 2 Corinthians 8:12 | 12. Give according to your means. |
| 2 Corinthians 9:7 | 14. Give cheerfully (not reluctantly or under compulsion). |
11. What can today's church learn from the unity and stewardship of the early church?

12. The early church practiced "communalism" not "communism." What is the difference between the two? One is voluntary, the other is involuntary.

13. Do you think tithing was demanded in the New Testament Church? Support your answer.

14. Do you think the liberal generosity of the early Christians was a result of a money raising campaign by the apostles? How do you account for the outflow of generosity?

II. HYPOCRITICAL AND DECEPTIVE GIVING: ACTS 5:1-10

15. What did Ananias and Sapphira sell? Acts 5:1


17. In what ways did Ananias and Sapphira not follow the grace of giving? (Refer to question #10.)

18. Who did Peter say Ananias permitted to lead him to commit the sin of giving deceptively? Acts 5:3a

19. What sins did Peter say Ananias committed with respect to giving? Acts 5:3bc
   v. 3b ____________________________________________
   v. 3c ____________________________________________
   v. 4d ____________________________________________

20. How do you think Peter knew that Ananias had not given all he had pledged?

21. Who do you think Ananias and Sapphira were trying to impress? Do we see this in the church today?

22. What did Ananias and Sapphira want the church members to think they had done? Acts 4:34-37

23. What rights did Peter remind Ananias he had? Acts 5:4ab
   v. 4a ____________________________________________
   v. 4b ____________________________________________

24. What did Peter do to open the door for Ananias to confess and repent of his sins? Acts 5:4c

25. What was the consequence of Ananias' sins? Acts 5:5a, 6

26. How did Peter open the door for Sapphira to confess and repent of her sins? What did she do? Acts 5:7-8

27. What did Peter say Sapphira had done wrong? Acts 5:9a

28. What was the consequence of Sapphira's sins? Acts 5:9b-10

29. What affect did the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira have on the church and others? Acts 5:5b, 11

30. Why do you think instant death was served against Ananias and Sapphira for their sins?

31. What does this week's lesson teach us about good and bad stewardship practices?