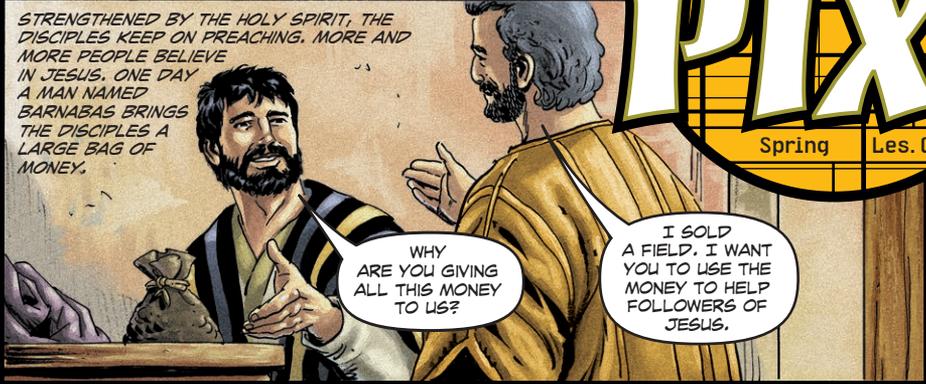


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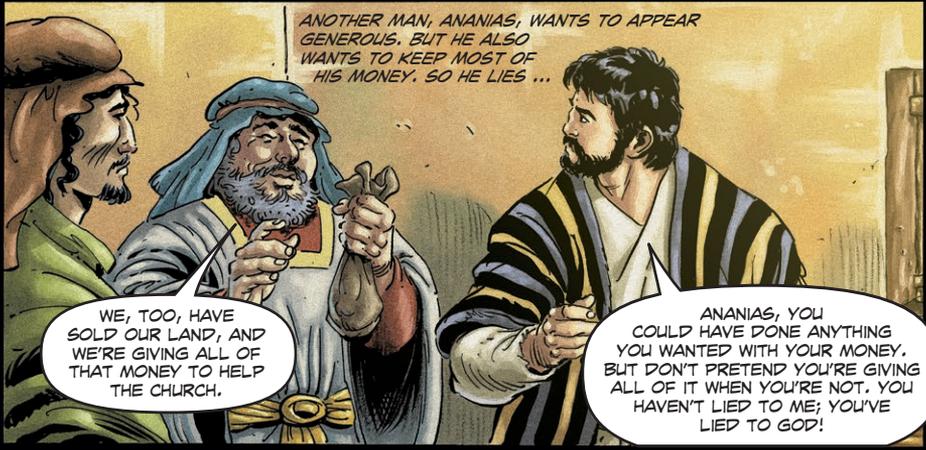
STRENGTHENED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE DISCIPLES KEEP ON PREACHING. MORE AND MORE PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS. ONE DAY, A MAN NAMED BARNABAS BRINGS THE DISCIPLES A LARGE BAG OF MONEY.



WHY ARE YOU GIVING ALL THIS MONEY TO US?

I SOLD A FIELD. I WANT YOU TO USE THE MONEY TO HELP FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

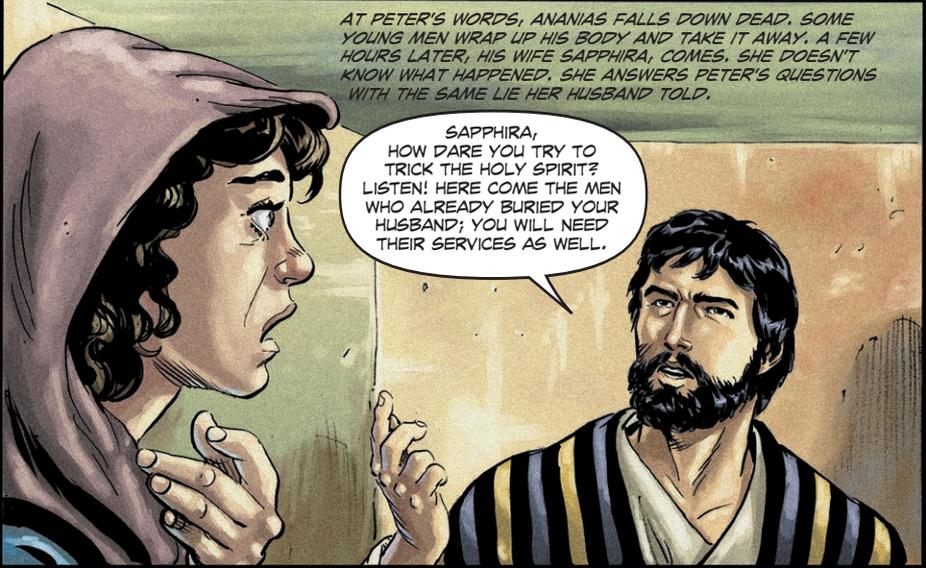
ANOTHER MAN, ANANIAS, WANTS TO APPEAR GENEROUS. BUT HE ALSO WANTS TO KEEP MOST OF HIS MONEY. SO HE LIES ...



WE, TOO, HAVE SOLD OUR LAND, AND WE'RE GIVING ALL OF THAT MONEY TO HELP THE CHURCH.

ANANIAS, YOU COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING YOU WANTED WITH YOUR MONEY. BUT DON'T PRETEND YOU'RE GIVING ALL OF IT WHEN YOU'RE NOT. YOU HAVEN'T LIED TO ME; YOU'VE LIED TO GOD!

AT PETER'S WORDS, ANANIAS FALLS DOWN DEAD. SOME YOUNG MEN WRAP UP HIS BODY AND TAKE IT AWAY. A FEW HOURS LATER, HIS WIFE SAPPHIRA, COMES. SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. SHE ANSWERS PETER'S QUESTIONS WITH THE SAME LIE HER HUSBAND TOLD.



SAPPHIRA, HOW DARE YOU TRY TO TRICK THE HOLY SPIRIT? LISTEN! HERE COME THE MEN WHO ALREADY BURIED YOUR HUSBAND; YOU WILL NEED THEIR SERVICES AS WELL.

INSTANTLY, SAPPHIRA FALLS DEAD ON THE FLOOR. THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEE THIS AS A WARNING TO ANYONE WHO TRIES TO DECEIVE GOD OR THE CHURCH.



HE CAN'T WALK. PLEASE MAKE HIM STRONG SO HE CAN RUN AND PLAY WITH THE OTHER CHILDREN.



I CANNOT HEAL HIM, BUT JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, CAN. IN JESUS' NAME, I TELL YOU YOUR SON IS HEALED.

EVERYONE WHO COMES IS HEALED. THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE ONES WHO WORK WITH HIM ARE SO JEALOUS THEY CAN'T STAND IT. THEY HATE SEEING PEOPLE COME INTO TOWN TO BE HEALED. IN A FIT OF RAGE, THEY HAVE THE DISCIPLES ARRESTED AND THROWN INTO JAIL.



THIS TIME THEY'RE NOT GETTING OUT. WE'LL PUT AN END TO THIS NONSENSE!

fun shop

PEACE OR PIECES



The start of a quarrel is like a leak in a dam, so stop it before it bursts.
Proverbs 17:14, MSG

Friendship

Quiz:

Are You a
"Best Friend?"

Would you want yourself for a friend? Before you start listing all of your excellent qualifications, take this friendship quiz to discover how well you rate as a friend. Read each situation, and then circle the choice that best describes what you would do.

1. If you were choosing sides for soccer, who would you want on your team?

- a. Only the best players.
- b. Your friends.
- c. Whoever wants to play.

3. You want to go to an amusement park. Your friends want to go to a children's museum. You all wind up at the museum. How would you act the rest of the day?

- a. Pout and complain.
- b. Act bored, even if you were enjoying the museum.
- c. Make the best of the day.

2. Your parents gave you an expensive toy for your birthday. Would you let someone else play with it right away?

- a. Absolutely not!
- b. It depends on who asks.
- c. Yes.

4. You like to tease your friends. But is teasing ever wrong?

- a. No, as long as no one gets hurt.
- b. It's never wrong.
- c. Sometimes it can be wrong. It depends on a person's attitude.

5. You were invited to join your friend's family at their cabin. Another friend who was dying for an invitation didn't get one. If his friend asks you about the cabin, what would you do?

- a.** Change the subject really fast.
- b.** Give a vague answer, one that's not really a lie nor the truth.
- c.** Try to explain the situation.

6. You finally figure out why your friend has been winning the game you've been playing. He was cheating! What would you do?

- a.** Call him a cheater and quit playing.
- b.** Start cheating, so you can win.
- c.** Call a time-out and give your friend another chance to play fairly.



Do you remember what Jesus said about doing to others as you would have them do to you?

In other words, treat others the way you would want to be treated. (That's called the Golden Rule—see Matthew 7:12.)

Go back over the answers you circled, and put a star next to the ones that show the way you'd like to be treated if the situations

were reversed. Or put an X next to another answer that shows how you'd like to be treated.

How many of your answers were the same? Different? Think about this: What things do you need to change in order to treat your friends and family the same way you'd like to be treated? **Ask God to help you make those changes and be a better friend.**

Pix Puzzle Page

Give your brain cells a little stretch with these three puzzles.

Can you place four more X's on the square so that no two of them will be in the same row up, down, across, or diagonally?

1					
2		X			
3					
4					
5			X		
6					

Answer: row 1—frame 5; row 3—frame 1; row 4—
frame 6; row 6—frame 2.

What Letter Am I?

1. I'm in "heaven" and also in "hop."
2. I'm in "hope" and in "joy."
3. I'm in "glory" and also in "bliss."
4. I'm in "you" and "day."
5. I'm in "beauty" and in "book."
6. I'm in "life" and in "kind."
7. I'm in "blessed" and in "bright."
8. I'm in "hold" and also in "lift."
9. I'm in "honest" and also in "free."

Answer: If you have selected the correct letters you will have the words "Holy Bible."

WHO PLAYS WHAT?

Michael, Alex, Cole, and Joe play four different sports: soccer, baseball, football, and basketball. The teams they play on wear uniforms with blue, green, red, or orange tops. Use the following clues to figure out who plays what sport and the uniform color.

(Hint: you may want to use a graph to keep track of your answers.)

Clues:

Michael doesn't play basketball but he does wear blue.

Alex plays baseball but he doesn't wear green or red.

This boy plays football and he wears red.

Joe plays basketball.

Michael plays _____ and wears _____.

Alex plays _____ and wears _____.

Cole plays _____ and wears _____.

Joe plays _____ and wears _____.

Answers: Michael: soccer, blue; Alex: baseball, orange;
Cole: football, red; Joe: basketball, green

fun shop

Guide (pointing out the wonders of Niagara Falls to a proud Texan): Now, isn't this something? Do you have anything like this in Texas?
Texan: Nope, but we got a plumber who could fix it.

Dick: I know a woman who had snu in her blood.

Jane: What's "snu"?

Dick: Oh, nothing much. What's new with you?



Do you like your chimney-cleaning job?
Soots me.

Teacher: Jimmy, how did you get that terrible swelling on your nose?

Jimmy: I bent over to smell a brose.

Teacher: There isn't any "b" in rose.

Jimmy: There was in this one!



Bill: I fell over 20 feet last night.

Mark: Wow! Weren't you hurt?

Bill: No, I was just trying to get to my seat at the ballpark.

Mother: Why don't you like your new teacher?

Daughter: She told me to sit up front for the present. Then she never gave me the present!



Pause a minute

1. It was a hot and dry summer. Wildfires burned near a city. A small group of children decided to gather all their coins. Then they took the money to the store to buy bottled water for the firefighters on the lines. They wanted to give what they could to people who were working hard to save their community.

Read more about giving in 2 Corinthians 9:7.



Take a look back

3. What are ways you can give? Is it as simple as a smile or time? Is it a project to work on with a group? How can you act on what is in your heart to do?

key verse

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7



Record your thoughts

4. Write down your giving plan. Include realistic goals and details. How well are you doing on your plan to become a cheerful giver?

Check out what God's Word says about being a cheerful giver:

Acts 4:32-36

Acts 5:1-11

Mark 12:41-44

faith forward
in touch with God



Play it out

2. Meet Barnabas. He knew some early Christians needed money. He sold a field and brought the money to the apostles so they could give it to those who needed it. Barnabas gave from his heart. A man and woman named Ananias and Sapphira also sold property. They pretended to give everything to the apostles, but really kept money for themselves. The Bible tells us that their giving really was a lie to God.

There are many ways to give—but the key to that giving is in your heart. Don't give for fame, power, popularity, and so forth. Instead pray about how or what you can give. When you have decided cheerfully in your heart what to do, then it's time to give!

