

*Loving God
Sharing Jesus
Caring for People*

newtownbreda baptist

May 2010 House Group Questions

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1. Read Acts 4:23-31

Context

Peter and John had been arrested in the temple grounds after healing a lame man and speaking to the large crowd of onlookers. The following day they were brought before the Jewish Council and warned not “to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus”. They then went back to their own people and reported all that had happened.

- How do you think **you** would have prayed if you were in that group of believers?
- What did the believers ask God for? (v29)
- What can we learn from this prayer that may enrich our own prayer life?

2. Read Acts 4:32-37

“All the believers were one in heart and mind” (v32)

- What does it mean to be “one in heart and mind” with other people?
- How did this unity manifest itself in the life of the church?

“No-one claimed that any of his possessions was his own...” (v32)

- What does this teach us about our attitude to our possessions?

“There were no needy persons among them” (v34)

- Does the local church today still have a responsibility to care for needy people in the fellowship? Do we take this responsibility seriously enough?

3. Read Acts 5:1-11

- What exactly was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?
- How had they “lied to God”?
- What do you understand by the phrase “test the Spirit of the Lord”? (v9)
- What might have motivated them to plan this sin?
- In what ways may we be tempted to lie to God and to our fellow believers?
- What motivates us to do this?
- In what ways may we “test the Spirit of the Lord”?
- What does this tragic story teach us about hypocrisy?
- How can we minimise the temptation to hypocrisy in church life?

4. Twice in his record of this event Luke records that “great fear” seized the church?

- What do you understand by this expression?
- What place should fear have in the life of the church today?