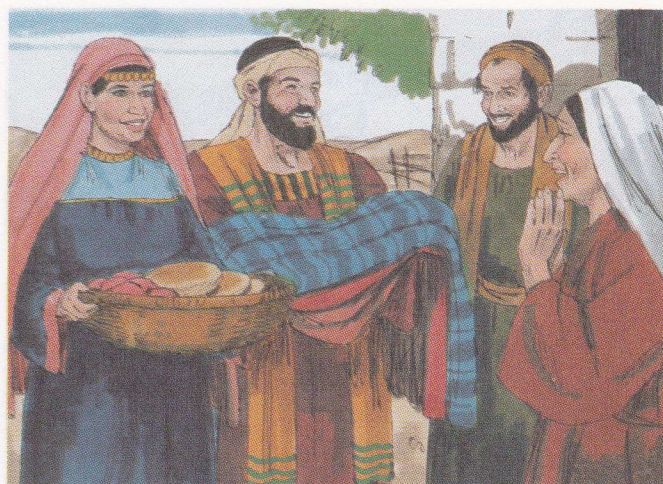


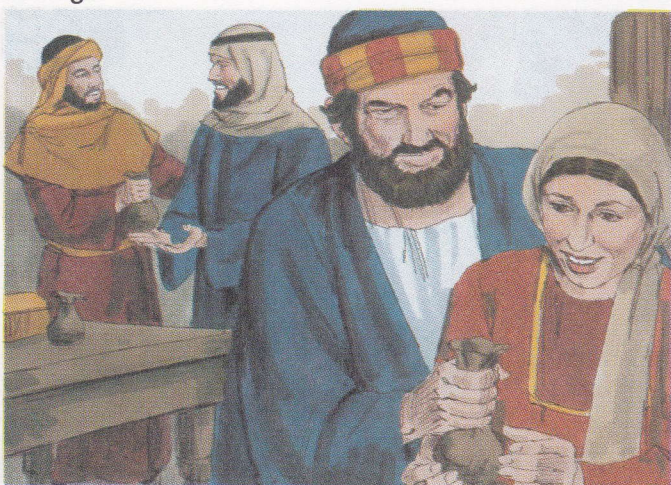
The Disciples Share



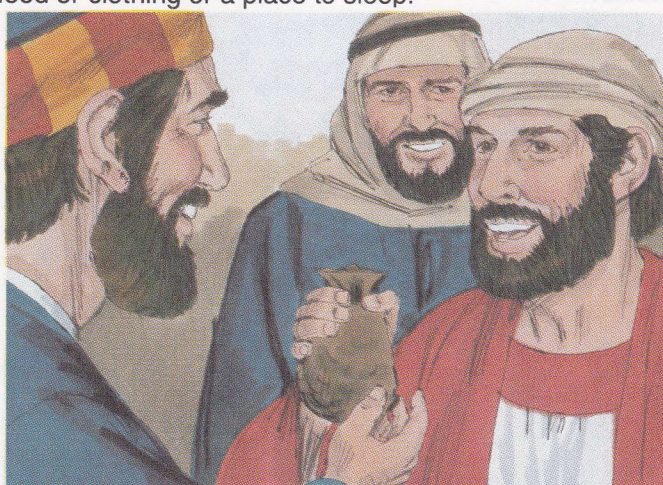
1 Even though the Jewish leaders warned Peter and John not to teach in the name of Jesus, the believers continued to tell others about Jesus with great courage.



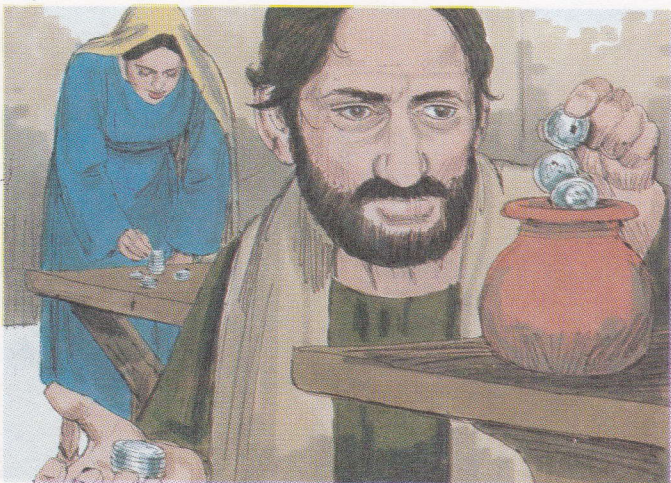
2 All the believers felt very close to one another. Each shared his possessions with the others. There was no one among them who had to do without food or clothing or a place to sleep.



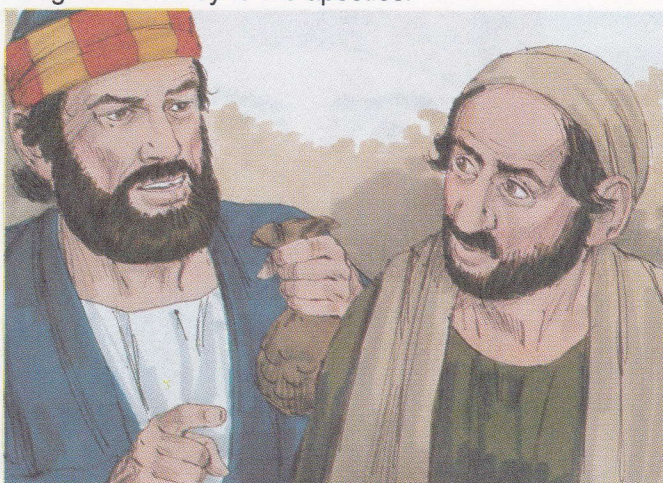
3 From time to time those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles. The apostles would give some of this money to anyone who needed it.



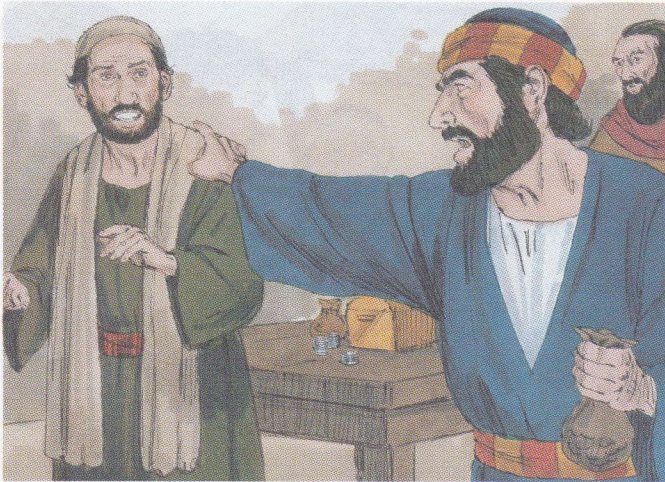
4 One of the believers was a man from Cyprus whom the apostles called Barnabas (Son of Encouragement). Barnabas was one of those who sold a field and brought the money to the apostles.



5 A man named Ananias also sold a piece of property. But he kept back part of the money and brought the rest to the apostles, as though it were the full amount. His wife, Sapphira, knew about this.



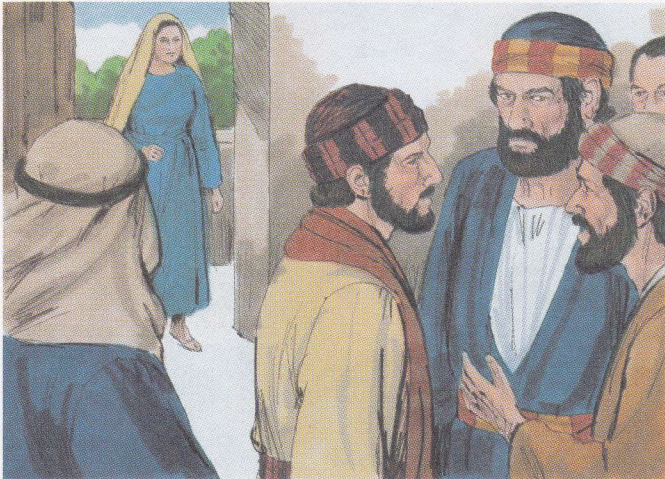
6 Peter said to Ananias, "How is it that Satan has caused you to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"



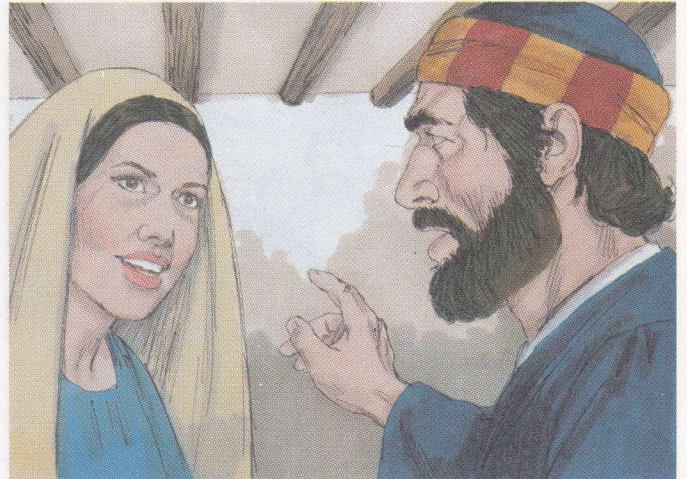
7 “You did not have to sell the land. And after you sold it, you could have done whatever you wished with the money. Why did you decide to do this? You have not lied to men but to God.”



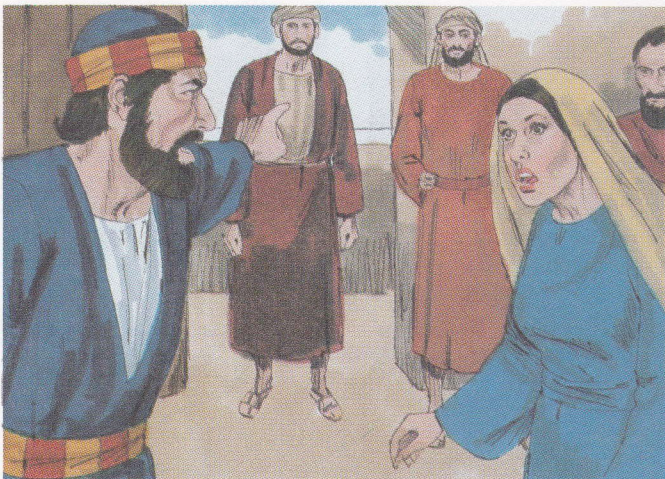
8 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. All who heard what had happened were afraid. Some young men came and got Ananias’s body and buried it.



9 About three hours later, Sapphira, his wife, came in. She did not know what had happened to her husband.



10 Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.”



11 Then Peter said, “How could you agree to test the Lord? Look, the men who have just buried your husband are at the door. They will carry you out, too.”



12 Immediately, she fell down before Peter and died. The young men took her body out and buried it beside her husband’s. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about this.