Weary after traveling far from home, a young minister was exhausted when he arrived at a small hotel. He started to watch something to relax. The problem was that he and his wife decided not to watch regular video content and to focus only on spiritual issues during Sabbath hours. His brain kept arguing, “Yes, but you are so tired! You don’t need to watch something harmful. Just find something relaxing. After all, you are alone!”

He suddenly realized that this was a crossroad in his life. First, while passing through the channels, he would risk paying attention to an inappropriate thing. Second, the decision to act in dissonance to his beliefs and the agreement with his wife would start a precedent. What would be the next thing that he would do while trying to hide it from his wife and children? Third and more important: Was he keeping the Sabbath for others to see? One invisible Being was there, who could see and know all things, even his thoughts. He decided to sleep instead.

The pastor said that the episode influenced other subsequent decisions in his life, even the way he tithed. He could have pretended to return tithe while giving a lesser amount than what is expected by God. But he remembered that he was not alone. There was One who knew and always knows, and nothing is hidden from Him.

Through this week’s account we will review the spiritual consequences of a lack of integrity and unfaithfulness, the seriousness of vows, as well as God’s readiness to accept the sinner and to forgive those who confess their sins.
Write out Acts 5:1–11 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Acts 5:3, 4. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Acts 5:1–11. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

If all are expected to bring tithes and also offerings to the Lord (Mal. 3:8), why in Ananias and Sapphira’s case could they have chosen not to give the land and remain guiltless?

In your opinion, is God’s omniscience against or for us?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw11-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How can we avoid the “fear of death” that leads to sin? What spiritual disciplines help us to develop trust and escape from fear?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw11-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Psalm 76:11
Deuteronomy 23:21
Proverbs 20:25
Ecclesiastes 5:4–6
Malachi 1:14
Psalm 15:1–4
Romans 2:4
Isaiah 55:6, 7

What other verses come to mind in connection with Acts 5:1–11?

Review your memorized verse from Acts 5:1–11.
Where is Jesus in Luke 20:27–40?

What is preventing me to take advantage of God’s mercy? What prevents me to recognize the worst scenario of my case and to confess my sins to Jesus while there is still time?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week's study, what is the Word of God saying to you personally?

How could this be applied to your social circles?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw11-7
Ananias and Sapphira: The Unfaithful Givers

Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What is wrong with the act of parading our possessions (ostentation)? What does it indicate about someone’s spiritual life and their relationship with Jesus?

Why does Malachi 3:9 say that those who rob Him are cursed? Is it an appropriate motivation returning tithes to avoid the curse?

If it is far easier to recognize others’ sins than our own, how do we develop an honesty which allows us to identify them? Which of God’s provided tools are intended to help us in that endeavor?

Do you believe that, based on what the Bible says, there is a healthy guilt? Can anyone truly confess their sins before acknowledging themselves as guilty?

Must someone feel sorry about it before confessing a sin? Are sinners naturally able to feel sorry about a sin they like? Is repentance a feeling or an attitude?

Ananias and Sapphira: The Unfaithful Givers