

Small Group Study Guide- After the Potluck 4 (Acts 5:1-11)

Opening Thought: Take some time to discuss the concepts of holiness and/or righteousness and our understanding of God's judgment, whether temporal or eternal.

1. Applause or approval? (Acts 5:1-2)

- Read all of Acts 5:1-11 and then contrast the story to what we learned from Acts 4:32-37. Discuss the differences.
- In Matt. 6:1 how does Jesus explain false righteousness?
- 1 Thess. 2:4- How does Paul contrast the idea of seeking God's approval or man's applause? How can we safeguard ourselves from this?

2. Intimacy or enmity? (Acts 5:3-4)

- Being filled: Contrast Peter's words to Ananias with Paul's exhortation in Ephesians 5:18. What does it mean to be filled?
- Contrast Ananias filling with Barnabas. Compare what we read with Galatians 5:16-25.
- As a group, discuss the difference between intimacy with God and hostility. How does the Holy Spirit work in our lives to produce intimacy? (John 16:13-15)

3. Encouragement or discouragement? (Acts 5:5-11)

- How can God use lives to produce encouragement in others? Share in modern day examples.
- How can God use lives to discourage others to not model ungodliness? Share any modern day examples.
- Acts 5:6,11- Discuss "great fear."
- Galatians 6:7-10. Discuss God's judgment in light of how we live for Him? What exhortation is given to encourage people of the household of faith to stay the godly course?
- 1 Peter 4:17- If Christians are saved, thus freed from eternal judgment, how might we view the judgment of God's household?
- How can we apply the steps of approval, intimacy and encouragement to our lives?