

# TAKEAWAY

## EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE



### Part Ten: Acts 4:32-5:11

*At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!*

#### INTRODUCTION

At the heart of Acts is a message for everyone everywhere, about a person who is for everyone everywhere. In this session, we explore how what at first seems like a rash and challenging part of the story of the early church, can show us how God is much more interested in our hearts than our outward appearance...

#### SHARE

- Why do you think hypocrisy is so irritating when we see it in other people?
- Do you agree that everyone is hypocritical to some degree? Why or why not?
- Why do people care so much about reputation and image?

#### READ

**Acts 4:32-5:11**

#### DISCUSS

What are some modern ways people “curate” a version of themselves for others to see?

The core issue was not that Ananias and Sapphira kept some money back, but that they pretended to be more generous than they really were. Why is that distinction important?

To what extent do you behave like a follower of Jesus when you know that nobody else is ‘watching’?

Why do you think God seems far more concerned with the heart than outward appearances? Why is this a good thing, and how is it a challenge to us?

How does believing that ‘it’s all about Jesus, not how good we are’ change the way someone approaches failure, guilt, or hypocrisy? How does it free us?

How do you think people outside the church often view hypocrisy among Christians? Why would it be a good thing for Christians to much more readily admit their own shortcomings?

Imagine a friend – who is not a follower of Jesus – challenges you about something you did wrong. How would you likely react? How would you like to react, and what would motivate you to respond differently?

#### PRAY

Pray for one another. If appropriate, it may be helpful to share the areas you struggle with and pray for each other, specifically, asking for God’s help to live whole-heartedly for Jesus.

#### TRY OUT

- Reflect on the areas of your life you are most tempted to “curate” your outward appearance.
  - Can you pinpoint any part of your life you feel you must hide from others or from God? This could be an area in your life where you are scared to be yourself, bold, creative?

- Are there any areas in your life where you spend a lot of time and energy hiding the real you?
- Spend some time this week opening up to another group member, friend, mentor, or spouse about what you processed in the questions above. Remnants of pride, shame often disappear when we choose to be vulnerable and seek God with those we trust and love.