

Lead or Follow?

Would you rather follow a leader who is smart, powerful, or kind?

Read Acts 5:1-42.

1. Why did Ananias lie about the cost of the couple's land sale and gift?
 - A. He figured it was better to keep some in savings in case he needed it.
 - B. He wanted to keep pace with the gift Barnabas made (Acts 4:36-37).
 - C. Making a big donation would give him status among the believers.
 - D. The church's need was so great he wanted to respond at least some.
 - E. The sale of the land yielded a greater amount than they expected.
 - F. Nobody would find out he was lying.
 - G. It was his money, so he could do whatever he wanted with it.
 - H. Everybody lies some of the time, don't they?
 - I. Other.

2. Why did Sapphira lie about the amount?
 - A. She and her husband had privately agreed to adjust their gift.
 - B. She had second thoughts about their rash decision to give it all.
 - C. She had no idea her husband had just died for lying.
 - D. It was her husband's idea.
 - E. The early church didn't really need all of the money.
 - F. She wasn't going to be manipulated by peer pressure.
 - G. The apostles should have been grateful for the gift; any gift.
 - H. It's not that big of a deal.
 - I. Other.

3. How would you react to the sudden death of this couple?
 - A. I'm never going to lie again.
 - B. I'm never going to donate again.
 - C. God is mean and vengeful.
 - D. Peter is mean and vengeful.
 - E. I would have some questions.
 - F. I would have some fears.
 - G. Being part of the church is much more serious than I realized.
 - H. Why did they do it?
 - I. Other.

4. What was happening at Solomon's Porch/Colonnade (vs. 12)?
 - A. Nothing.
 - B. Something.
 - C. This was where believers in Christ's resurrection hung out.
 - D. Positive peer pressure.
 - E. Encouragement for new believers.
 - F. It became the happening place.
 - G. It challenged the existing power structures.
 - H. The Holy Spirit kept being poured out on people who met there.
 - I. Other.

5. Why didn't Peter give in to the pressure the religious leaders used?
 - A. The religious leaders didn't have much power.
 - B. Peter never gave in to peer pressure (um, see Mark 14:66-72).
 - C. After an angel escorts you from prison, you obey the angel.
 - D. The power of God kept Peter rooted.
 - E. The power of fellow believers kept Peter rooted.
 - F. Peter cared more about what God thought of him.
 - G. He knew the religious leaders were just jealous.
 - H. Jesus had prepared Peter for this (Luke 21:12-15).
 - I. Other.

6. How was Gamaliel able to defuse the crisis?
 - A. He was a very wise guy.
 - B. Gamaliel used his status and reputation to steer the crisis a new way.
 - C. He removed the apostles from the council chamber.
 - D. God placed Gamaliel where he was for this particular time.
 - E. He promised this would end very soon.
 - F. He gave both sides what they wanted.
 - G. He kept intact the belief that the death of Jesus would end this thing.
 - H. Other.

7. When it comes to spiritual things, are you more likely to lead a group, follow a group, or a combination of both?

8. What gave the disciples such courage when they faced such pressure? When or how does God give you courage?