If you want to, you can answer every question in this Bible study by drawing symbols or pictures. But if you're more comfortable writing down words, go ahead. Either way, you'll be showing the attitude of the early Christians toward giving.

MONEY MATTER

1. Read Acts 4:32. How do you think the early Christians felt about their situation?

2. Read Acts 4:33. How do you think people hearing the salvation message for the first time felt?

3. Read Acts 4:34-37. How do you think most Christians today feel about giving to the church?

4. Read Acts 5:1-6. What do you think Ananias's personality was like?

5. What was Ananias's sin? How should Christians feel about this particular sin?

6. How do you think the Christians felt when Ananias and Sapphira dropped dead?

7. What kind of attitude should we have when we give our money to God?

Bible Study

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Acts 4:32-37

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed
that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared
everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued
to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's
grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no
needy persons among them. For from time to time those who
owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from
the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed
to anyone who had need. 36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus,
whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of
encouragement"), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money
and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5:1-11

1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also
sold a piece of property. 2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept
back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put
it at the apostles' feet.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled
your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for
yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it
belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't
the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such
a thing? You have not lied to human beings but to God."

5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great
fear seized all who heard what had happened. 6 Then some young
men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out
and buried him.

7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what
had happened. 8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you
and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

9 Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of
the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband
are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the
young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and
buried her beside her husband. 11 Great fear seized the whole
church and all who heard about these events.