

1 But as the believers [Greek word Disciples] rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. 3 And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. 4 Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."

5 Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). 6 These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them.

7 So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. *Acts 6:1-7 (NLT)*

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- What differences have you appreciated about Christians from a background different than yourself? Why?
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

v.1-7

- O: What is the context leading up to chapter 6, and how did this lead to the issue described in Ch.6:1-7?
Follow-up: What is the dispute among the church?
 How is it dealt with?
 Why don't the apostles take over the matter themselves?
- O: What were the requirements for the men chosen to lead the church in addressing this issue in the early church (v.3)?
- O: What is the result of this delegation/empowering others in the church to lead a critical ministry (v.5,7)?
Note: As we continue these next few weeks through Acts (6:8-8:3), is is significant that many of the Jewish priests became followers of Jesus. Keep this in mind as we continue this journey in future weeks.
- I: What does laying on of hands (v.6) signify?
- I: What "principles do you see about the way the church should function in relationship to problem-solving?
Follow-up: ...In relation to call to ministry?
- A: What lessons does Acts 6:1-7 have for us today (both our home group and our church)?
 Be specific, how might the Holy Spirit be leading us to respond to this passage?
Follow-up: What might be dividing lines of tension or jealousy in our church?
 What are possible ways to bridge these?

Recommended Follow-up:

- Read: Next week's sermon 12/2/12 will focus on Acts 6:8-7:53. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, etc.

* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guides rely heavily on a few other study guides; including: Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A), "Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action" by Phyllis LePeau (ISBN 9780830830077), "Acts: Seeing the Spirit Work" by John Stott (ISBN 0851113907), "Acts" by N.T.Wright (ISBN 9780830821853), "Acts" by NavPress (ISBN 0891091122), "Acts" by Blackaby (ISBN 9781418526429), "Acts: The Spread of the Gospel" by John MacArthur (ISBN 9781418508746), "Book of Acts" by Max Lucado (ISBN 0849953006).