



## Life Group Study Questions\*

Sent - Part 6 (Acts 5-6) "A Ministry of Multitudes"

### INTRODUCTION

**Describe a time when someone served you by meeting a need in your life. Did you ask for help or did the person anticipate your need? How was your relationship with that person impacted by his/her act of service? If someone was watching your day-to-day life, what would they say you consider a more important aspect of being a Christian—declaring the gospel or demonstrating it? Why are both important?**

The church has all different kinds of needs, desires, and priorities that compete for her attention. When we are all willing to serve, we can know that the church can continue to move forward in her mission from Jesus. In Acts 6, we see a model for this kind of service as God raises up servant leaders in the church to meet the needs of the congregation and ensure the church can stay on mission.

Have a volunteer read Acts 6:1-7.

**What was the issue in this passage? Why were servant leaders needed? Why did the apostles need other people in the church to step up and serve? How does this example impact our church's ministry efforts? What activities may have kept the church leaders from being aware of the problem with the widows? Are there any groups in danger of going unnoticed in our church? Why? What would be some effective ways to serve these people?**

As the church grew, so did its problems. These verses record a cultural clash the early church encountered. The Greek widows in the church felt like they were being left out and not provided for. In order for the apostles to remain focused on their ministry—preaching and prayer—they called servant leaders to make sure the physical needs of people in the church were being met. Rather than helplessly watching the church divide over this issue, seven men stepped up to serve. God calls people from within the church to meet the needs of the church.

**What qualifications were required to be a servant leader? Why is each characteristic important? How has God called you to serve, either in the past or recently? How did you respond to that call?**

\* For quality discussion take time to answer all questions as thoroughly as possible

**What trait had God been developing in you to prepare you for that specific area of service?**

Verse 3 notes that the qualifications to be a servant leader were three-fold: ethically, they must have a good reputation based on their character and conduct. Spiritually, they must be fully dependent on the Holy Spirit. Practically, they must have the wisdom to plan and carry out the necessary tasks. These characteristics are essential for serving the Lord by serving His people.

**What is the result of preaching the gospel without meeting physical or emotional needs? On the other hand, what is the result of meeting needs without the clear preaching of the gospel?**

**According to Acts 6:7, what was the result of this focus on service, and what change did it bring to the church's ministry?**

Ask a volunteer to Read James 1:27.

In James 1:27, we read instruction to the people of God that links the Acts 6 example of service with authentic faith. James knew that our words and actions must agree with our beliefs if we're to exhibit genuine Christianity that makes a positive difference.

**What examples of genuine discipleship did James give in this verse? Why were widows and orphans especially in need of care? What additional insight does this bring to the Acts passage?**

James's words would have resonated with his audience. They knew that in the Old Testament, widows and orphans were representative of the poor, helpless, and defenseless people among the Israelites. James's definition of pure and undefiled religion is based on action.

**APPLICATION**

God designed us to be both demonstrators and declarers of the gospel, and He gave us the church as a means to not only change the world in His name, but also connect with people who share our love and our mission.

**Why is every member of our church important? Discuss interdependence. In what ways are you dependent on other members of your church? In what ways are others dependent on you?**

**How have we taken up the charge to serve our church and our community?**

**What can we do now to meet a need in our church?**

**What are some specific things we can ask God to accomplish through us as we serve in the areas we have discussed? Include these specifics in your closing prayer.**

**PRAYER**

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