

THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

Acts 6:3-7

January 14, 2024

THE SERVANT SOLUTION

1

This passage begins with a “therefore”—how does the previous statement (that it is not right for the apostles to give up preaching of the word to serve tables) connect with the next statement (that the disciples should pick out seven men to serve)?

2

How does this episode point to a necessary division of labor in the church? How does thinking about the different kinds of work required in the church help us to consider how to best equip our people?

3

What criteria do the apostles specify for the seven to be selected? Why would these be necessary qualities for the kind of work that was in view?

4

How does one discern whether another believer is “of good repute” and “full of the Spirit and of wisdom”? What kind of steps can we take to build relationships that would allow us to detect these qualities in others?

5

What are the steps of this selection process? Who is involved and what kinds of organization or systems would need to be put into place to make this happen?

6

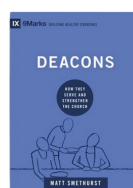
The selection of these seven may serve as a prototype for the selection and ordination of deacons. What parallels do we see with how the church considers and selects deacons today?

7

This passage concludes with the word of God increasing and the number of disciples growing. While all kingdom growth is a result of God at work, is there at the same time a connection between how a church handles practical matters and their kingdom effectiveness?

8

This episode began with a problem and complaint in Acts 6:1 and ends with unity and growth. How can the history of the early church serve as an encouragement to the church today?



SERMON RESOURCE

Deacons by Matt Smethurst

In *Deacons: How They Serve and Strengthen the Church*, Matt Smethurst makes the case that deacons are model servants who rise to meet tangible needs in congregational life.



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DISCUSSION GUIDE

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