

09/28

HOME GROUP GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

LISTEN

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passages(s)



REFLECT

Prayerfully answer the questions below



DISCUSS

Meet with your group to discuss



RESPOND

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

BACKGROUND:

As the Church's mission continues to expand throughout the book of Acts, we see Satan trying to undermine the work of the Holy Spirit. After failing to defeat the Church through persecution or corruption, he turns to a third tactic: distraction. In Acts 6:1-7, he attempts to preoccupy the apostles with social administration. The Church is growing, and a real need surfaces where the Greek-speaking widows are being overlooked in the daily distribution of aid. Although this work is vital, it was not the apostles' calling. They know it would require them to neglect their God-given responsibilities to pray and preach, leaving the church susceptible to false doctrine.

Recognizing this, the apostles directed the church to address this need by choosing seven men "of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom" to serve this vulnerable group. And as a result, "The word of God continued to increase." This story teaches us a valuable principle: the Spirit affirms and empowers his servants for every task, from works of proclamation to practical acts of service.

OPEN:

1. What is the most unusual job you've ever had? Did it feel important, or did it seem like it didn't really matter?

REFLECT:

2. Read Acts 6:1-7. What is causing division within the church? How do the apostles address this potentially polarizing issue?

3. Why is it inappropriate for the apostles to neglect the ministry of prayer and preaching to "serve tables"? How does this distinction clarify the priorities of the church without undermining the importance of acts of service?

4. Why does this practical role require individuals “of good repute, full of the Spirit, and of wisdom”? What does this reveal about the importance of character and reliance on the Spirit in different ministry areas?

APPLY:

5. Who comes to mind as someone you’ve seen God use to make a big impact in what might seem like an insignificant role? What stands out about their approach to ministry?

6. How can God use acts of service to support the ministry of sharing the gospel? What are some practical ways we can do this in our own lives?

7. Some rely on talent and natural giftedness to serve others. Here we see that an essential part of any ministry is being “full of the Spirit.” What does it mean to serve others under the Spirit’s guidance? What steps can we take to ensure our service is Spirit-led?

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