

Into the Deep- Week 4 Small Group Questions

Ask:

1. Did you attend a service at The Harbor for this message? What were your thoughts on what you saw and experienced compared to a "normal" Sunday?
2. Did the experience surprise you in any way? For example, did it make you think about how many people it takes to run the ministries? Or did it annoy or frustrate you?
3. How important is it for a Christian to serve in and out of the church building?
4. What are some areas of the church you have served? What has been rewarding for you in the area you serve or have served?

Read:

Acts 6:1-7, But as the believers 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.

Ephesians 4:16, He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ask:

1. Pastor Jeff said, "The Apostles could have kept running the food program, but they would have kept someone else from serving in it, maybe even

someone else who could do it better.” Do you agree with this thought? Why or why not?

2. How well do you think the church is doing at working together to serve where God has gifted each person?
3. When a person serves in multiple areas to fill a need, how might that hinder others and themselves from growing spiritually and even disrupt unity?

Read:

Acts 6:7a, So God’s message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem...

Ask:

1. Pastor Jeff said about Acts 6:7a, “This seems to imply that if the Apostles and the people of the early church had not divided up the ministry, the message would have slowed down instead of continued to spread.” Have you ever considered that our decision to serve or not serve could potentially hinder the speed at which the church can spread the Gospel? Do you agree or disagree?
2. Do you believe every role in the church matters as much as any other? Why or why not?

Apply:

1. What is one thing from this message that stood out to you the most?
2. If you don't currently serve in the church, consider praying about where God might desire for you to serve. Ask your group to help you determine where you might fit best based on your passions and gifts.
3. Make a commitment as a small group to serve in and out of the church building 2-3 times in 2024. Contact Mindy Robertson, The Harbor's ministry coordinator, if you need help determining where you could serve together. Her email is mindy@theharbor.life.