

Growth Group Guide

Topic: Lead Like This – Acts 6

Opening Question:

Who is someone whose behind-the-scenes service made a big impact on your life? How did their faithfulness point you to Jesus?

Key Scripture:

- Acts 6:1 (CSB): In those days, as the disciples were increasing in number, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution.
- Acts 6:2–4 (CSB): The Twelve summoned the whole company of the disciples and said, 'It would not be right for us to give up preaching the word of God to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.'
- Acts 6:5–6 (CSB): This proposal pleased the whole company. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a convert from Antioch. They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.
- Acts 6:7 (CSB): So the word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.
- 1 Timothy 3:8–10 (CSB): Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. They must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons.
- Luke 16:10 (CSB): Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much.
- Matthew 25:21 (CSB): His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy.'

Main Points:

- I. Growth in the church brings opportunities and challenges (Acts 6:1).
- II. Unity requires listening to concerns and addressing needs (Acts 6:1–2).

III. Leadership is shared, different roles allow the mission to advance (Acts 6:3–4).

IV. Character, not convenience, qualifies people for service (Acts 6:3; 1 Tim 3:8–10).

V. Faithful service, even in small things, fuels gospel growth (Acts 6:7; Luke 16:10).

Key Takeaways:

1. Church growth brings both blessings and challenges that require wisdom and care.
2. Needs in the church (real or perceived) must be taken seriously for unity to thrive.
3. Shared leadership allows both service and the ministry of the word to flourish.
4. Character and Spirit-filled wisdom are the qualifications for leadership and service.
5. Faithful service in small things leads to greater gospel impact and opportunities.

Discussion Questions:

1. Scripture Understanding Question:

Read Acts 6:1–7. How did the apostles' response both protect the unity of the church and advance its mission?

2. Group Reflection Question:

How have you seen behind-the-scenes service strengthen and sustain the church?

3. Personal Application Question:

What role has God given you in serving His people? How are you stewarding it?

4. Practical Implementation Question:

What is one tangible way you can meet a practical need in your church or community this week?

5. Challenge/Growth Question:

Like Stephen, how might God use faithful service in small things to open doors for greater influence in your life?

Next Steps:

****This week, join us in prayer:****

Ask God to show you areas where you can serve faithfully and strengthen the unity of His church. Pray for our leaders and servants to be Spirit-filled and wise in meeting needs.

Individual: Identify one practical way you can serve in your church this week—big or small—and commit to it.

Accountability: Share with your group how you plan to serve and ask someone to check in with you about it.

Scripture: Memorize Acts 6:4 (CSB): 'But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.'

LIVE SENT: Encourage someone who serves faithfully in the background—thank them and point out how their service reflects Jesus.