

Acts 6:1-7

July 20, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How Can We Serve?

As student ministry leaders, you recognize that students can serve in meaningful ways—often more than they (or others) realize. This session is designed to help students identify practical ways they can serve.

Step 1: Spiritual Gift Assessments

1. Begin by providing students with a spiritual gift assessment and instructions for completion. Give them a set amount of time to work through the assessment.

Step 2: Small Group Discussions

Once students have completed their assessments, divide them into small groups. In these groups, have them discuss ways they can serve in the student ministry, within the broader church, and in the local community. Each group should create a list of service opportunities to share with the student minister and other leaders.

Step 3: Sharing and Identifying Needs

After the small group discussions, ask a few volunteers to present the ideas their group brainstormed. As part of this discussion, come prepared with

specific service opportunities within the student ministry and the church that the staff has identified as areas where students could be helpful. Present these needs to the group and encourage students to speak with the student minister if they are interested in getting involved.

Here is a link to a Spiritual Gifts Survey created by Lifeway:

<https://youngadults.lifeway.com/wpcontent/uploads/downloads/SpiritualGiftsSurvey.pdf>.

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 6:1-7.

What challenge do we see at the beginning of chapter 6?

Why was it important for the disciples to find a solution? What could have happened if they didn't address it?

What are some modern-day examples of this kind of challenge in the church?

How did the apostles respond to this complaint?

How did they keep up with their God-given priorities while also showing care to those being overlooked?

What can these verses show us about the importance of the whole church working together?

What was the result after the commissioning of leaders to serve the church?

Why does it matter that we make sure those in need are taken care?

What does today's passage teach us about how a healthy church functions?

GOING DEEPER

What can we learn from this passage about how God designed the church to work?

What does this passage teach us about leadership from many different areas of the church—including student ministry?

APPLICATION

What does today's study teach us about responding when we are faced with "growing pains" in our group or church?

How can we be more intentional in taking care of those in need in our church and community?

What are some ways we as a group, or specific group members, can better use our individual gifts to serve the church?

PRAYER

Thank God for uniquely gifting us to bless others. Thank Him for making a place for each of us to serve and help in the church. Ask for His help as you consider ways you can better serve our church and use your gifts to benefit others.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

July 27, 2025 --- Acts 6:8-7:53

COMMENTARY

Acts 6:1-7

6:1 The distinction between Hellenistic and Hebraic Jews probably refers to the irrespective languages. Many Jews whose primary language was Greek were converted to Christianity (e.g., Paul, Ac 9; see note at 22:3). Needy Hellenistic believers felt they had been neglected in the early church's charity distribution. This imbalance may have arisen due simply to the logistical challenge caused by the rapid addition of Hellenistic Jewish Christians. The existing church structure proved unable to meet the growing demands. It was time for change.

6:2-4 The distinction between those responsible for preaching and those responsible for distribution of food marks the beginning of functional distinction of roles and responsibilities in the early church. The apostles (the Twelve) believed prayer and preaching were their primary duties. It is not that other roles were unimportant. In fact, the high requirements (good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom) that had to be met by the seven men who would take over the duty of food distribution signals the importance of all roles in Christian service. Each of the "seven men" filled a position that later came to be reserved for deacons. Informally, therefore, these men were the first Christian deacons. They were responsible for the practical needs of the congregation.

6:5-6 Stephen and six others (their Greek names probably identify them as Hellenistic believers) were selected. They were set apart for service by prayer and the laying on of hands by the apostles. The laying on of hands occurs in several contexts in Acts (8:17; 13:3; 19:6). Here, as in 13:3, it indicated the church's recognition that God had called these people to a particular ministry. The ministry of Philip is highlighted in 8:4-13, 26-40.

6:7 The word of God spread, and the disciples increased greatly in number in the early church. Even a large group of priests became followers of Christ. Luke did not specify who the priests were, but they were probably those who performed duties in connection with worship at the temple. This put them in a good position to hear the apostles preach on a regular basis.