



ACTS: LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 6:1-7

Week of September 3, 2023

Start at 9:50-10:00

Belong: *Use 5-10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Ask the question[s] below:

- **If you had a superpower that couldn't help anyone, what would it be?**
- **If you had a robot that could perform one household chore, what would you have it do?**

10:00-10:05

Believe: *Use 5 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have a group member read **6:1-7** aloud.

- Can you summarize these verses in **1-2 sentences**.
- In these verses, which action of the Holy Spirit is being described? **[Sanctification = The Spirit is our Helper as we grow in holiness OR Empowerment = The Spirit empowers particular people for particular service.]**

10:05-10:15

Build: *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

As we ended chapter 5 last week, we covered several verses which showed persecution against the church. Today, we will look at seven verses that may be more representative of the church today than any we will read in all of Acts. In Acts 6, Luke provides us with a description of the blessings and the challenges facing a rapidly growing first century church in Jerusalem.

In this section, we see that the Hellenists were Greek-speaking Jews. They came from a different ethnic and cultural background than the native Hebrew-speaking Jews. In this section, they brought a complaint before the community of believers, "their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution."

This complaint illustrates a practical truth of church growth:

- Blessing? - The church is growing!
- Hindrance? - The people of the growing church are complaining!

If you were a Hellenist in this story, what narrative would you have put together in your mind as to why your widows were being neglected?

- **How do we respond when someone complains? How should we respond?**

10:15-10:35

Become: *Use about 20 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

If you were one of the apostles, and you heard this/ these complaint[s], how do you think you would have responded?

- What was their solution?
- What was the character traits of these 7 men? **[good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom]**
 - Considering the complaint, why were these traits necessary?

How did these seven men assist the apostles?

- How did the first century deacon's role differ than the way modern Baptist churches use deacons? **[first century = as need arose, they chose men to serve/ modern = more as elders and decision makers within the church]**
- Is there a biblical difference between elders and deacons? What is the difference?
- According to **Acts 6:7**, what happened to the church as a result of employing deacons for widow care?

Should pastoral leadership do the majority of the work of the ministry, or should they equip/ empower the church?

- Why must prayer and preaching [proclamation] of Scripture be central in pastoral ministry?
- How do your thoughts on this help or hinder the effectiveness of the local church?

10:35/ - Class ends at 10:45

Begin: *Use the last 10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: Acts 6: Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: Acts 6: Check out the QR code to learn more.

