

ACTS: THE CHURCH IN MOTION

Called to Serve: The Kind of Servant God Uses

Acts 6:1-7 (ESV) | Week 18 | October 11, 2026

Small Group & Family Discussion Guide

THE BIG IDEA

God calls every believer to serve, and He looks at character before the task.

MEMORY VERSE

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, ESV)

Getting Started: Read Acts 6:1-7 aloud together. If your group discussed last week’s guide, take a moment to recall how the church handled the complaint in 6:1-2. This week focuses on the people chosen to serve and how they were chosen.

OBSERVATION

What does the passage say?

1. What problem was the church facing in verse 1, and what was happening in the church at the time?
2. List the three qualifications the apostles gave in 6:3. Are any of them skills, or are they all about character?
3. Who chose the seven (6:3, 6:5)? How did the whole gathering respond to the plan?
4. What two things did the apostles do once the seven were set before them (6:6)?
5. What happened in the church after the seven were appointed (6:7)?

UNDERSTANDING

What does it mean?

1. “Good repute” comes from the Greek word for a witness: men whose lives were well attested by others. Why would trustworthiness matter so much right after Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)?
2. Why would overseeing a food distribution require someone “full of the Spirit”? What does that say about work we often call merely practical?
3. All seven men have Greek names. What does that suggest about how the church cared for the widows who had been overlooked?
4. Read Numbers 27:18-23. How does Moses commissioning Joshua help explain the laying on of hands in Acts 6:6? Did it make the seven qualified, or affirm what God had already done?
5. Luke uses the same word family (diakonia, diakoneo) for the daily distribution (6:1), serving tables (6:2), and the ministry of the word (6:4). Paul uses it in Romans 13:4. What does this teach about whether some kinds of service matter more to God than others?
6. Read Mark 10:45. In what ways do we follow Jesus’ example of service? In what way is His service something none of us could ever give?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What does it mean for me?

1. If this church needed someone it could trust with something important, would the people who know you best point to you? Why or why not?
2. Where are you most tempted to serve in your own strength rather than depending on the Spirit?
3. Is there a kind of service you have quietly considered less important or less spiritual? What would change if you saw it as ministry?
4. Have you received Christ's service for you, His life given as a ransom? How does being served by Him change why you serve others?

APPLICATION

What will I do this week?

1. Where is God calling you to serve right now, at FBCD or in your community? Name one step you will take this week.
2. Choose one person who serves others (a law enforcement officer, teacher, nursery worker, caregiver, or someone serving unseen at church) and pray for them by name every day this week.
3. Write a note of thanks to someone whose service usually goes unnoticed.

FAMILY APPLICATION

For parents and children together

- Read Mark 10:45 together and talk about it: What does it mean that Jesus came "to serve"? Who is the greatest servant who ever lived?
- Ask your children: Who are the helpers in our community and our church? How can we pray for them?
- Serve together as a family this week: make a card for a local officer or first responder, take a meal to a neighbor, or help an older neighbor with a chore.
- Practice the memory verse together each day this week.
- Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for serving us first and asking Him to help your family serve like Him.

We serve because Christ first served us.