

LEADING & SERVING: DEACONS — ACTS 6:1-7

1. When have you felt especially cared for and served in difficult time or situation?

This week in our series, we're continuing to look at the people and roles God has provided the church to fulfill its calling. In the book of Acts, the concept of the deacon is introduced in response to the church's growth to ensure that care is taking place. **READ ACTS 6:1-7.**

2. How would you summarize the challenge(s) the church is facing here in this passage? (Consider the various dynamics involved: physical, cultural, organizational, interpersonal)
3. How do the apostles respond to this challenge? Does their response come across as dismissive? Why or why not?
4. **READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7 AND 1 PETER 4:10-11.** What do these passages suggest about the relationship between elders/pastors and deacons?
5. How does the work of deacons express the heart and character of Jesus? (Consider the following passages: **Matthew 10:25-28/Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 2:3-8**)
6. Acts 6 deals with a group of people—in this case, widows—being overlooked. Who in our church community are we prone to overlook that may need even more care given their circumstances?
7. Based on this passage, what are some appropriate expectations we should have about care in the church? What are some inappropriate expectations?
8. Is there a specific person or group of people in our church God has placed on your heart to serve? Or, is there a specific skill God has equipped you with to serve others that you would like to utilize more?
9. What tends to prevent you from following through on the Spirit's prompting to serve? What needs to change about your attitude, habits or lifestyle to start acting on His guidance more consistently?

PRAY

Pray for our pastors and elders that they would recognize and respect their own limitations.

Pray for our deacons that they would lean on the Spirit for strength and wisdom.

Ask the Lord to raise up more deacons to serve in our church.

Ask the Lord to enlarge our own hearts for his people and to grow as servants.