

Acts 6:1-7 (New English Translation—NET)

¹ Now in those days, when the disciples were growing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Greek-speaking Jews against the native Hebraic Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

² So the twelve called the whole group of the disciples together and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to wait on tables.³ But carefully select from among you, brothers, seven men who are well-attested, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this necessary task.⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

⁵ The proposal pleased the entire group, so they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a Gentile convert to Judaism from Antioch.⁶ They stood these men before the apostles, who prayed and placed their hands on them. ⁷ The word of God continued to spread, the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

Sermon Notes:**Discovery Bible Study Questions**

1. What different types of leadership do you see within the church?
2. Read v1. What can you determine about the conflict? How could a similar conflict arise today?
3. Read v2-4. Why was it necessary for the twelve apostles to appoint these men?
4. What criteria was evaluated for the chosen men? What does this say about their ministry role?
5. Read v5-7. How is Stephen described? What do these qualities look like in a person's life?
6. How did the twelve commission these men? What did these actions communicate?
7. How do you think these leadership decisions contributed to the overall result described in v7?

