



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### THE EARLY CHURCH CHOSE HELPERS



**Read Acts 6:1-7 from your Bible or from below.**

As the 12 disciples started preaching the word of God, more people began believing in Jesus as the Messiah. Many people became Christians. Because there were so many more people, the disciples had a lot more to do. Some of the Jewish Christians became very upset with another group of the Jewish Christians. They believed the widows in their group were being overlooked and not taken care of in the right way.

The 12 disciples brought everyone together to discuss the problem on how to take better care of the widows and to make sure the widows had enough food. God had called them to preach. They explained, it would not be right for them to give up preaching the word of God to help take care of the widows. They needed to work together to find another solution. The disciples asked the people to choose 7 wise Christian men that could take care of the widows.

These men would be able to help so the disciples could focus on prayer and preaching the word of God. Everyone agreed the disciples had a wonderful plan. The people chose 7 men who were known to be good and trustworthy. The people chose Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus to take care of the widows.

These men stood before the people and the 12 disciples. The disciples laid their hands on them and prayed for them. Now that the 7 chosen men were taking care of the needs of the people, the 12 disciples were able to focus on the work God had given them. The word of God spread, and a great number of people became Christians. Because the early church chose helpers, more people became obedient to God.



## Family Worship Experience

-TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE-

**Say:** *Your body is an amazing creation. Did you know by the time you are a grownup, you have 206 bones? There are 27 bones in your hand alone! Within your body there are complex systems to help you breathe, talk, walk, think, and respond. It takes all of these systems and more working together to keep you healthy and strong.*

The church can be compared to the human body. Just like a healthy human body has many parts working together, a healthy church has many people working together.

In the Bible story this week, we learned about the early church. As the church grew larger, it was hard for the disciples to take care of all the needs of the people. Some were afraid the widows (women whose husbands had died) were not being taken care of. The disciples were busy preaching about Jesus. Both were very important, but the disciples could not do it all. They decided to choose a group of men to help take care of the needs of the church so they could focus on spreading the good news of Jesus. As a result, many more people came to believe in Jesus.

Churches serve many purposes today. They are responsible for sharing and teaching about Jesus, helping believers grow in their relationships with God, serving their communities, and helping those in need, just to name a few. Everyone can play an important part in the church. You don't have to be on church staff or an adult to be an important part of your church.

We are all called to help those in need. Sometimes this means helping with physical needs like food, clothes, and shelter. Other times this means helping with spiritual needs, like praying for others, telling others that they are loved by God, and teaching them more about Jesus.

No matter your age, you are an important part of the church! Look for ways you and your family can be a part of serving by helping others.

**Preschool Life Point:** *People at church help others.*

**Kids Life Point:** *God uses the church to meet the needs of people.*

### Preschool Review Questions:

1. What was the main job of the disciples in the early church?
2. How did the disciples decide to make sure the widows were taken care of?

### Kids Review Questions:

1. What problem was the early church facing as it grew larger?
2. How did the disciples resolve this problem?
3. Name different people in your church and roles they have. How can you be part of God's work at your church?

**Pray:** *God, thank You for the church. Thank You for providing a place where we can learn more about You and grow in our relationships with You. Help our church take care of the needs of those around us. Help our family be an important part of this, too. Amen.*



## Family Worship Experience

— LEARN SCRIPTURE —

The weekly Bible verse below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.

**PRESCHOOL (paraphrase) : Encourage one another to love and do good works. *Hebrews 10:24***

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**KIDS: Let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other. *Hebrews 10:24-25***



## Family Worship Experience

— SING —

Sing a *Bible Studies for Life* song or one of your family's favorite worship songs.