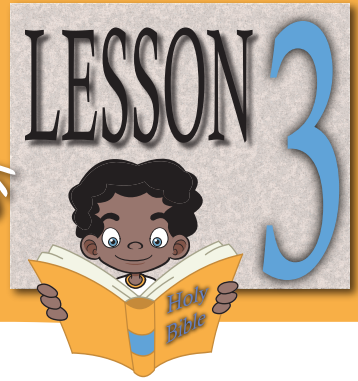


Special Men for a Special Service

Acts 6:1-7



New Testament 4
Part 1: Disciples of the Early Church

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "[T]hrough love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

OLDER CHILDREN: "[L]et each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:3b, NASB).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

Use songs and fingerplays from previous lessons in this unit.

- ["Make Me a Servant"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [N.T. Disciples & Peter Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "N.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces to represent the seven men chosen
- Pictures or drawings to illustrate qualifications of elders and deacons
- Pictures of the elders and deacons in your congregation

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Elders and deacons are special servants in the church. I should show them respect and help them take care of others. I can learn to be a servant (helper), too.



INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

We have been learning about the book of Acts. In Acts chapter 6, we can read about seven men who were chosen to be special helpers in the church. They were to serve others. We need to always try to find ways that we can help other people.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last Sunday's lesson.

How many of you like to help others? (Discuss ways we help others.) We should always be helping others, especially in the Church. Even though we should all be helpers, there are special jobs created by God in the Church. Today, we are going to learn about men who were chosen to be servants in specific ways.

LESSON STARTS HERE

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. After Pentecost many new Christians, from all parts of the world, stayed in Jerusalem. They all shared what they had with one another. Some, like Barnabas, sold their land and gave the money to the apostles to buy food for those in need. Among those who stayed in Jerusalem and needed help, were "Grecian" (or "**Hellenistic**") Jews. As the food was distributed, some of the Grecian **widows** were not getting what they needed; they asked the apostles for help.
2. The apostles wanted to help, but they didn't want to take away any of the time they had to preach and teach about Jesus. So they asked the other church members ("the congregation of the disciples") to choose seven men with good reputations and strong faith to be special servants. The congregation chose Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas.

NOTES:

Hellenistic Jews—Jews who spoke Greek and practiced Greek customs, or Jews who were actually from Greece but were living in Palestine.

Widow—a woman whose husband has died

3. The apostles "laid their hands on" these seven men to give them the ability to perform miracles. Remember that miracles (in both the Old and the New Testaments) had a specific purpose: to prove that their message (spoken by prophets, teachers, apostles, etc.) was from God.
4. Sometimes these seven men are considered to be the first deacons in the Church. Although they are not called deacons in Acts 6, the Greek word *diakonia* (which means "to serve") is used to describe what they were to do (6:1-2). They were chosen to be special servants, to help people who could not repay them or return the favor. These men helped others because they cared about others and because they loved the Lord.
5. Elders are also special servants and leaders in a congregation. Elders and deacons are to help other church members and to be good examples. We should show them respect and help them by being willing to serve others, too. They are working to help our church family to go to heaven.



OLDER CHILDREN: In 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, Paul tells us what kind of men should serve the Church as deacons and elders. [Go over these qualifications/characteristics with your class.]

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[First Deacons Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Write thank you notes to the elders and deacons of your congregation and have the children write their names on the cards and/or decorate the cards.
- Using paint, place the child’s handprints on a piece of cardstock that has the memory verse or “Helping Hands” typed/written on the sheet. (The teacher may need a helper for this activity.)
- Make a matching game with the elders’ and deacons’ names and photos.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Play [Tic-Tac-Toe](#) using review questions about [this lesson](#) and previous lessons (board provided in activity sheets).
- “[Qualifications of Deacons Fill in the Blank](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Qualifications of Deacons True or False](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Deacons Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Make a matching game with the elders’ and deacons’ names and photos.
- Have children write thank you notes to the elders and deacons of your congregation.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Play [Tic-Tac-Toe](#) using review questions about [this lesson](#) and previous lessons (board provided in activity sheets).
- Have children write thank you notes to the elders and deacons of your congregation.
- “[Qualifications of Deacons Fill in the Blank](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Qualifications of Deacons True or False](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Deacons Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read:
 - 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1
 - “Special Servants: Deacons” *Discovery* magazine article, [October, 2012](#)

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

Use songs and fingerplays from previous lessons.

“MAKE ME A SERVANT” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

Make me a servant,
Lord, make me like you.
For you are a servant,
Make me one, too.

Make me a servant,
Do what you must do.
To make me a servant,
Make me like you.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE
“SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE
CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Special Men for a Special Service

Acts 6:1-7



New Testament 4
Part 1: Disciples of the Early Church

WEDNESDAY EVENING

New Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "[T]hrough love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

OLDER CHILDREN: "[L]et each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:3b, NASB).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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Use songs and fingerplays from previous lessons in this unit.

- ["Make Me a Servant"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

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INTRODUCTION:

- [N.T. 4 Bible Fact Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

Remind the children that the early Christians cared about one another, loved one another, and helped one another, and we should do the same. Remind them of ways your congregation has reached out to members in need, etc. Talk to them about ways they can help others.

OLDER CHILDREN: Help them look up “one another” passages in concordances. **Or** give them slips of paper with several “one another” passages; tell them to find each scripture and place their finger on the passage when they find the verse. Let them race against one another to find all the passages (or time them as they find the passages).

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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