

Acts 6: 1-7: The Community Expands

1. Do you know what you are particularly good at? Spend some time sharing your gifts and skills with the group. Tell a neighbour what you see in them that is special.
2. **Read Acts 6: 1-7** What do you notice? Does anything surprise you? How do you feel about people acknowledging struggles? Is this just complaining or is it something else?
3. The problem has arisen because the early church community has grown. What practical needs arise in our fellowship now that we are nearly 100 souls? When have you encountered practical challenges? How have you responded?
4. Why do you think the apostles choose not to act themselves? Why do they ask the people to choose leaders *for themselves*? Could you respond with similar confidence about what God has called you to do? What does the bible advise on this matter? (**see 1 Corinthians 12**)
5. What differences have you noticed in Christians from different backgrounds? What is positive and what is negative about these things? Are you aware of your own bias in some areas?
6. Are you aware of any divisions or differences in approach in our fellowship? If yes, how might we tackle these in a God-honouring way?
7. Stephen and his team are described as having very spiritual qualities for such practical tasks (vv3-5) Why do you think this matters? What do you think makes a good leader within our church?
8. Why is it important to be open to the Holy Spirit whatever your role in the church family?
9. **Read Matthew 9: 35-38.** Where do you see God growing a harvest around our church? How might we 'harvest' more souls for the Kingdom? In what areas do we need more workers to help? How might we pray as Jesus suggests?

10. Time to Pray:

- Let God know the difficulties or struggles you have been facing as a believer.
- Ask God to provide solutions to the issues you may have identified in our fellowship.
- Pray for the right people to come forward to help gather the harvest.
- Consider whether YOU might be the person we are waiting for in some regard. Ask God for clarity and courage to take the next steps as His servant.