#### Lesson 6:

#### Special Men for a Special Service

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Acts 6

MEMORY WORK:

Mark 16:15

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.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

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.

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.

**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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* There are no large card visuals for this lesson. The tv visuals have been printed off if the teacher would prefer to show a hard copy. They are located in the visuals file.
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. The file is labeled 06-07 because lesson six and seven are on one file. Show slides 1-5 for this lesson.
* A copy of the pictorial directory. Use this to point out the Elders and Deacons and discuss their roles.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“MAKE ME A SERVANT”**

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.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Using paint, place the child’s handprints on a piece of cardstock that has

“Helping Hands” typed/written on the sheet. (The teacher may need a helper for this activity.) For a neater version, trace the hands

* Continue working on ABCs of Acts or any other pages that need to be made up for the NT Binders.
* Bring light snacks or play food and let the students serve each other.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Help the children write thank you notes to the Elders and Deacons (and/or men who serve) in your congregation.
* Bible Fact Toss: Have the children stand/sit in a circle. Ask a review question over this lesson or previous lessons. Toss/Roll a Nerf ball or beanbag to one of the children to answer the question and then have the child toss/roll the ball/beanbag back to you. Play continues until all the children have answered at least one question.
* Ask the children to sit in a circle. The teacher says the first book of the New Testament.The child next to you says the name of the second book, and so on, until all the New Testament books have been said.
* 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.
* Make a matching game with the elders’ and deacons’ names and photos.

### Review Questions

1. Who asked for help from the apostles?
	1. The Grecian widows
2. Who did they choose to help the ladies?
	1. They chose seven men to make sure the women had the help they needed
3. What did the apostles do to these men?
	1. They “laid their hands” on them so they could perform miracles.
4. What do we sometimes refer to these seven men as?
	1. The first deacons of the Church
5. By Acts chapter 6, how many Christians were in Jerusalem and where were they from?
	1. Thousands of Christians from all parts of the world
6. How did the Christians feel about sharing with one another?
	1. They were happy to share.
7. As food was being given to those in need, who was left out?
	1. The “Grecian” or “Hellenistic” widows
8. Who did the apostles ask to help the widows?
	1. “The congregation of disciples”
9. What did the apostles tell the congregation?
	1. To choose seven men to handle the matter
10. What qualities did the apostles specify for these seven men that would be chosen?
	1. Good reputations, “full of the Holy Spirit,” and wise
11. Who were the seven men that the congregation chose?
	1. Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas
12. Why did the apostles “lay their hands” on the chosen men?
	1. So that the church would know they were specially chosen, and, also, to give them the ability to perform miracles
13. In his letter to Titus and Timothy, who did Paul say should serve the Church?
	1. Deacons and Elders
14. How should we treat the Elders of the church?
	1. With respect as we follow their leadership

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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