

STUDY GUIDE

Acts 6:1-7

“Humble Unity and the Witness of the Spirit”

- 1) In Acts 6:1-2 we read that the first church faced a twofold dangerous threat. What were those two dangerous threats? Share what dangerous threats the church faces today.
- 2) The initial dangerous threat was a conflict of complaining (murmuring, criticizing, gossiping) that arose because certain widows were being neglected. Read Philippians 2:14-16, James 5:9, Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 3:12-17 and discuss God’s position on complaining. What does complaining (murmuring, criticizing, gossiping) do to the body of Christ, the church?
- 3) Why is the greatest major threat to the church the neglect of the Word of God? How can the people of God keep the Word of God in its proper place in the church?
- 4) How did the leaders in the first church discern the calls and sense the gifts, and assign the roles to the ministries to individuals in the church? How can leaders in the church do that today?
- 5) Why must spiritual leaders in the church focus on *“prayer and the ministry of the word”*? In what ways do spiritual leaders lose that focus? What are the effects in the church of doing so?
- 6) How the church made the decision as to who should *“serve tables”*? What roles did the leadership play in the process? What roles did God’s people play? Discuss what barriers keep those in the church from practicing the divine interdependence God created the church for.
- 7) In what way(s) does God choose and qualify His leaders by different standards than the world? Discuss the statement: *“Spiritual problems can only be solved by spiritual leaders.”*
- 8) What is the significance of *“laying on with hands”* in the Old Testament and New Testament? What is the significance of *“laying on with hands”* in the church today?
- 9) Share with one another what *“caregiving is the responsibility of everyone in the church”* looks like.
- 10) FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION: Discuss the implications (personally and for the church) of . . .

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7