

## Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

June 30, 2019

### *Less is More*

## ACTS: The Journey Continues

Acts 6:1-7

### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

### KEY VERSES

*6 Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.<sup>[a]</sup><sup>3</sup> Therefore, friends,<sup>[b]</sup> select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, <sup>4</sup> while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word."<sup>5</sup> What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup> They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*

*<sup>7</sup> The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. Acts 6:1-7*

### DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

It's important to understand the difference between being busy and being faithfully productive. Our culture is more frantic, plugged in, and stressed than ever before, and multi-tasking is considered an art. Striving for a well-rounded life can actually contribute not to a flourishing life, but to self-deception. ***Discuss the differences between being busy and being faithfully productive.*** Living busy lives leads to stress, fatigue, distractedness, and the inability to do any task well. We then risk modeling this behavior for our children, employees, or those closest to us. ***In what areas of your life do you see each of these most often play out?***

As the early church begin to flourish and grow, the frantic pace and disagreements caused the apostles to re-think their organizational system. All ministries of the church were equally essential, and the apostles realized they could not possibly do everything well. Empowering others to provide care to the poor and oppressed enabled them to focus on prayer and the teaching of the Word. ***Discuss your thoughts on how the apostles were able to grasp the concept of how human beings and systems flourish, with no professional or corporate training. Where do you see flourishing in your current systems at home or at work? In what areas could you begin to move in different patterns, be creative in your conversations, or more effectively delegate?***

***Psalm 139:13*** *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. What does this verse mean to you in regards to the way God has uniquely created you? Are you leaning toward your own core competencies and gifts? Consider ways to help you move toward God's specific and unique call for your life.*

***Dear Heavenly Father,*** thank you for this biblical teaching of how you have designed us, and designed us to live together. We praise you for the way you have so uniquely made each of us. Help us to reduce our distractions, and increase our attention to you as we discover your call for our life. ***Amen***