

Discussion Questions for Acts 6

1. Acts 6:1 discusses a specific practical problem that a specific church was having.
 - a. What was the problem and how did the people respond?
 - b. What practical concerns does your church community actively address in its discussions?
 - c. Reflecting on your church community, can you identify instances where individuals or groups might be treated differently from other groups?
 - d. How can proactive measures be taken to rectify such situations?
2. Acts 6:2-4 discusses some differences between the role of teachers (elders) and deacons (helpers).
 - a. What were the teachers responsible for in these verses?
 - b. What were the helpers responsible for in these verses?
 - c. In your church community, what responsibilities do the elders have?

- d. What responsibilities do the deacons have?
 - e. When your church selects deacons, what specific characteristics are prioritized?
 - f. In practical terms, how do you envision deacons employing these attributes to offer meaningful assistance to fellow church members?
3. In Acts 6:5, we see that the people chose a list of people with Greek (Hellenistic) names, but no Hebrew names. One theory is that the previous actions of the Hebrew candidates disqualified them for leadership.
- a. Have there been instances in your church where fulfilling biblical qualifications for elder or deacon roles resulted in a less balanced leadership structure?
 - b. If so, what impacts did this have in your community and how was this addressed in subsequent election cycles?
 - c. If not, what preventative measures does your church undertake to ensure a balanced leadership panel?

4. In Acts 6:7, we see the impact of choosing great leaders.
 - a. Reflect on the impact of great leaders in your church community. Identify specific positive outcomes resulting from their ministries.
 - b. Alternatively, if challenges persist, can you pinpoint underlying issues contributing to a lack of positive change?

5. Acts 6:8-15 discusses a situation where Steven encounters disagreement from those who did not believe that Jesus was God.
 - a. In Acts 6:10, what do the words "they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking" mean?
 - b. Why did some people then instigate trouble against Stephen?
 - c. Share personal experiences of times when your convictions were challenged, and you struggled to articulate supporting arguments.
 - d. Did you maintain your original stance, or did you undergo a change of perspective?
 - e. What influenced your decision?

- f. When contentious or potentially blasphemous topics arise within your church, how can your community discern whether they genuinely contradict God's teachings?

- g. How should individuals respond when unable to present convincing arguments, and how can disagreements be respectfully navigated?

- h. Consider the role of the Holy Spirit in these verses. How can we ensure that our words and actions align with those of the Holy Spirit?