

ACTS: Launch – “Time to Step Up” (Acts 6:1-7)

For the week of November 22, 2015

Testimony

Have a volunteer share their testimony (5-10 minutes).

Tell the Story

Summarize or tell the story of Acts 6:1-7. Then read the passage. Discuss any missing details from the telling of the story. Finally, rebuild the story as a group.

1. The apostles had specific qualifications in mind for the leaders they wanted, and chose men who were...

- Known from their sphere of influence –
“*seek out from among you.*”
- People who could serve on a team –
“*seven men.*”
- Trusted among the people –
“*of good reputation.*”
- Empowered for the task –
“*full of the Holy Spirit.*”
- Competent and intelligent –
“*full of ...wisdom.*”
- Responsible –
“*whom we may appoint over this business.*”

a. Why are these six characteristics critical for leadership in a church? Discuss each characteristic.

b. The distribution of food seems to be a fairly simple task that most anyone could do. Why was it important that the people chosen to carry out this responsibility be full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit? Is this so today and if so, why?

c. Analyze these six characteristics in your own life. Do you exhibit some of these characteristics? All of them? Do our leaders at RiverLakes exhibit these characteristics today?

2. When you see a need at RiverLakes or in Bakersfield, how do you respond?
 - a. I ignore it because _____.
 - b. I let a pastor know right away because _____.
 - c. I talk to others but then pray someone else will do something because _____.
 - d. I pray and think about what God might have me do because _____.

3. Write down all the needs at RiverLakes Community Church. Yes, that's right...write down ALL the needs! How do you see needs being met at RiverLakes? If everyone was actively being a disciple of Christ and actively making disciples of Christ, how would that impact meeting needs?

4. The twelve apostles knew what they were called and equipped by God to do as a service to the body of Christ and it governed their decision-making. What has God called and equipped you to do to serve the body of Christ at RiverLakes? Have you taken the ALL IN Ministry Class at RiverLakes which helps you determine your giftedness?

5. This passage emphasizes the teaching of God's Word. This is one of our core values at RiverLakes: ***Biblical Foundation: "We believe being a disciple means building our lives on the clear teaching of Scripture. We are a church that honors God's Word with accuracy and obedience."*** Read 2 Timothy 2:15 and James 1:22-25. Why is it critical to have accuracy and obedience in God's Word? How does immersing yourself daily in God's Word ensure accuracy and obedience?

Pray

Lord, help us to be a people who live out the truth that *"there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus."* Help each one of us discover and use our gifts to serve each other so that our church is healthy, meets the needs you want it to meet, and honors you in all it does.

Final Thought

We can be thankful that Luke gives us an update on the status of the church in verse 7. To this point the church stood firm in their faith despite great persecution and the gospel spread. People who sinned were dealt with and as a result the integrity of the church stood strong. In addition, people resolved tension and worked at overcoming the deficiency of administration so the church could continue to expand. We can rejoice that even though believers are imperfect, that with a commitment to prayer and a passion to share the gospel and God's truth, the church can continue to flourish and grow. A healthy church never expects its pastors or teachers to do all the work; their work is to prepare the saints to do the work of the ministry.