

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 14-20, 2022

## “CALLED TO SERVE”

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### GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Share an experience (positive or negative) that you've had in an establishment (e.g. restaurant, hotel, grocery, department store, etc.) that a staff had done for you.

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read ACTS 6:1-7

1. What complaint do you read about in the text? Who were the Grecian widows and what was meant that they "were neglected in the daily distribution"? Have you seen a similar situation have you seen in the modern church?
2. How were the seven men chosen? What standard/criteria was used for those who would serve (vv. 3-5)? Do you think the criteria is too high? Impossible or doable? In what ways does contemporary culture and thinking circumvent these?
3. What are your thoughts on church leadership? Should they do the majority of the work of the ministry, or should they delegate most responsibilities? How can you help free your church leaders to focus on their mission of prayer and the Word of God?
4. Another less obvious problem we find deals with division among different groups of people within the church. Do you see this happen in the church today? Give examples and share your thoughts and/or response to such.
5. How can we prevent division from happening in the church? What does Scripture say about people who cause division within the church?
6. Luke uses a play of words in this section. In verse 2, he says "wait (*diakonein, verb*) on tables" and then in verse 4, he says "ministry (*diakonia, noun*) of the Word." Both words in the Greek go back to the idea of service. Why is it important for us to see both as acts of service?

7. There are some people who say, "I will serve only if I can use my gift" or "I will serve only if I'm ready." What is right and what is wrong with this mindset? How can a Christian strike the right balance?

### 8. NEXT STEPS

Every Christian is "in the ministry" to serve the Lord in accordance to our gifts.

- I am a member of the body of Christ and I will serve Him with the gifts I have.
- I am will step up and become involved in serving the Lord through this local church.
- In the church, I commit to be part of the solution and not the problem.
- I will share Jesus and his love with others, and reach out to my friends and loved ones.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a servant heart that uses our gifts to further God's kingdom.
- Pray for wisdom for our pastors and elders as they lead the church.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers; that we will encourage and care for one another
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

August 15	Matthew 4:19-20
August 16	1 Corinthians 12:4-30
August 17	1 Corinthians 1:10-13
August 18	Luke 9:43-50
August 19	Hebrews 13:20-21
August 20	Psalms 95:1-7
August 21	Ephesians 4:17-24