



CONVERSATION

The Early Church Chose Helpers

ACTS 6:1-7

The early church in Jerusalem grew quickly because many people were coming to believe in Jesus.

Before long, a problem developed. The church was made up of two groups of people. One group complained that

their widows were being overlooked when the daily food was given out. This was not good! God's Word said that His people were to take care of widows (Deuteronomy 24:17-21). This work kept the disciples from preaching God's Word.

The twelve disciples (Jesus' original disciples, plus Matthias, who had replaced Judas) called everyone together. They said, "Brothers and sisters, choose seven men who can take responsibility for meeting these needs." The disciples told the people to choose men who had good reputations, were wise, and were guided by the Holy Spirit. These men would take care of daily tasks so that the disciples could continue to pray and preach to the people.

Everyone thought this was a good idea! The people chose Stephen, Philip, Prochorus (PROK-uh-ruhs), Nicanor (ni-KAY-nuhr), Timon, Parmenas (PAHR-mee-nuhs), and Nicolaus (nik-uh-LAY-uhs). These seven men stood before the disciples, who laid their hands on them and prayed for them.

Now the early church could do what God planned. The believers were able to take care of people's physical needs and their spiritual needs. Because they worked together, the Word of God spread, and many more people believed in Jesus.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: Hebrews 10:24-25

LIFE POINT: God uses the church to meet the needs of people.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Today your preteen learned that God uses the church to meet the needs of people. All the people worked together to solve a problem. They chose seven helpers and gave them the special job of helping widows.



LIVE IT OUT

Help your preteen learn that loving Jesus means serving others. Involve your preteen in planning a service activity for your family. Encourage her to take the lead in executing the project.



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God uses the church to meet people's needs as an expression of His love.



DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: Hebrews 10:24-25 Monday: 1 Peter 4:10 Tuesday: Galatians 5:13 Wednesday: John 12:26 Thursday: John 12:11 Friday: Matthew 23:11 Saturday: Mark 10:45



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