



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for October 12, 2008  
Released on Wednesday, October 8, 2008**

**"Choosing Helpers for the Work"**

**Lesson: Acts 6:1–5, 8–15.**

**Devotional Reading: Acts 1:3–11.**

**Background Scripture: Acts 6:1–15; 8:1–8.**

**Read: Acts 6:1–15; 8:1–8.**

**Places: Jerusalem**

**Time: A.D. 32 or 33**

**GOLDEN TEXT: "Look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom" (Acts 6:3).**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:**

**Acts 6:1–15; 8:1–8**

1And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

2Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

3Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

4But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

5And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

6Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

7And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

8And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

9Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

10And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

11Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

12And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

13And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

14For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

15And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

#### **TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON**

The story of the seven church helpers in Acts 6 is a practical word for both children and teachers. God has intentionally made each of us different so that we can minister to others in different ways.

One day someone from the local body of believers brought a complaint to the leadership in Jerusalem. Certain women were being neglected when food supplies were distributed to the needy. Obviously something had to be done.

The apostles could have made the distributions themselves, but they did not, saying it was not right that they stop their teaching to do this. They said, as it were, "Select seven capable men who are both wise and Spirit-filled. We will put those men in charge of this matter."

Thus the preaching and teaching continued, and the hungry were fed through different ministries and different servants. It is God's way.

Stephen and the rest undoubtedly had organizational skills. Where did those skills come from? God had given them. We too have been given the skills we need for whatever ministry the Lord has appointed for us.

#### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that the Lord equips each believer to fit into His work.

#### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. The Lord gifts His people differently so that they can help others in different ways.
2. Each believer has been enabled to do especially well in at least one thing that will benefit others.

#### **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:**

For Telling the Lesson, prepare pictures of the apostles, a group of seven men, and Stephen. With a felt pen, print a sign reading "ready."

For Helping to Remember, provide each student with a piece of white 8 ½ -by-5 ½ inch cardboard, crayons, and a 30-inch piece of red yard.

### **BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Every day more people were believing that Jesus was the Saviour God had sent. They had meetings in the temple and in their houses, and they took care of each other. When anybody did not have enough food, other believers shared with them. Their leaders were men who had been with Jesus when He went about teaching. One day some people came to those leaders with a big problem.

### **TELLING THE LESSON:**

"When the food is given out," they said, "there is one group of poor ladies who never get any."

Well, something had to be done, but the leaders—called apostles—were busy preaching the gospel. (Show the apostles.) They said, "It would not be right for us to stop preaching, so find seven men who would do a good job taking care of this. They must be wise and filled with God's Holy Spirit. We will put them in charge of seeing that all the poor Christians have food."

Everybody thought that was a good idea, and off they went. They chose Stephen. (Show Stephen.) They chose Philip. They also chose five more. (Show group of seven.)

The leaders prayed for those seven men. Then they said, "You are in charge of getting the food served to the poor people in the church."

Stephen kept talking about Jesus. (Show Stephen.) But now he also had the special job of seeing that the poor had enough to eat. We can be sure Stephen and those other men did a good job. You see, God had known that someday the church would need men like that. He had made them able to do what needed to be done. He got them ready. (Show "ready.")

The Lord knows what work has to be done in the world today, so He makes each one of His children able to do at least one thing very well. Then when He needs a person to do some special kind of work, He has somebody ready. (Show "ready.")

Stephen and the others knew how to plan and what to do to get a job done. (Show seven men.) Not everybody knows how to do that. God made Stephen able to preach too. Not everybody is able to preach. Some people can build houses. Not everybody can.

Both Stephen and Philip could preach. (Hold up your Bible.) We do not know if the other men could. We do know God had made them all able to work with others and care for the poor. Even if they did not preach, they were still doing something important.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

God has made you special. What you can do is not exactly the same as what your friend can do. For some of you, reading is easy, while for others of you, numbers

are easier. Some of you can sing well. Some can sing just a little. That is all right. God made you that way. He wants His children to be different. So do not feel bad if you cannot sing or read or write or throw a ball as well as somebody else. God has made you able to do something very well so that you can work for Him.

It may be that people will not know what special thing God has made you able to do until you are grown up. For right now, just do what the Lord says in the Bible. Keep praying and thinking about Him. That will help make you ready for whatever special job the Holy Spirit has for you to do when it is time. (Show "ready.")

**HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Help the children tie their cardboard with yarn to make it look like a present. The tied yarn will form four boxes. Beginning at top left, let them print in each box: "God," "has given," "a gift," and "to me."

**EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:**

"Look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom" (Acts 6:3).

Some had complained that when food was given to the needy in the church, some poor ladies were being left out. The leaders said, "Pick out seven men who would be good at taking care of the poor. They have to be wise. They have to be men who let the Holy Spirit tell them what to do." The church leaders would put those men in charge.

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"Choosing Helpers for the Work"**  
**(Acts 6:1–5, 8–15.)**

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:**

1. "And in those days, when the number of the [PRIESTS, DISCIPLES] was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their [WIDOWS, ANIMALS] were neglected in the daily ministrations." Acts 6:1
2. "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the [TEMPLE, WORD] of God, and serve [TABLES, BOOKS]." Acts 6:2
3. "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you [SEVEN, SEASONED] men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and [WINE, WISDOM], whom we may appoint over this business." Acts 6:3
4. "But we will give ourselves continually to [PEACE, PRAYER], and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

5. The multitude of disciples agreed to choose Stephen—"a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost"—to serve over the widows. They also chose Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas to assist him. These were the seven men chosen. Acts 6:5 TRUE OR FALSE
6. Stephen did not do a good job of serving over the widows. He did not do "great wonders and miracles among the people."  
Acts 6:8 TRUE OR FALSE
7. Some men from the synagogue were jealous of Stephen's knowledge of God, so they persuaded other men to accuse him of speaking against their Jewish beliefs.  
Acts 6:9–13 TRUE OR FALSE
8. When Stephen taught that Jesus said that He would "destroy this place," Stephen explained that Jesus was talking about His own death as well as the physical destruction of the temple. Acts 6:14 TRUE OR FALSE
9. When Stephen was asked by the Jewish council if what he was accused of was true, he became outraged and frowned up his face and protested loudly. He did not act in a Christian way. Acts 6:15 TRUE OR FALSE

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"Choosing Helpers for the Work"**  
**(Acts 6:1–5, 8–15.)**

W H I G H P R I E S T S V T N  
I Z S M E N S R B E S E C I N  
T F C A A H Y D S S G I P D B  
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L A O R T F U D J W R R A D E  
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E G C W H G A L H L R N N R A  
P A A G E G E I P A I O G H Q  
F C O U N C I L T F P W E Q H  
W I S D O M C S M H S L L B C

ANGEL  
ASLEEP  
CLOTHES  
COUNCIL  
ELDERS  
FACE  
WONDERS

FAITH  
FALSE  
HEAVEN  
HIGH  
JESUS  
PEOPLE  
SYNAGOGUE

POWER  
WITNESSES  
SCRIBES  
PRIEST  
SIGNS  
SPIRIT

STEPHEN  
SAUL  
STONED  
SEIZED  
WITNESS  
WISDOM

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**

**“Choosing Helpers for the Work”  
(Acts 6:1–5, 8–15.)**

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

1. "Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, 'It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.' "

ACTS 6:2 TRUE OR FALSE

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:**

2. "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves (CONTINUALLY, OCCASIONALLY) to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ACTS 6:3-4

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

3. "And the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith." ACTS 6:7

TRUE OR FALSE

4. "And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people." ACTS 6:8 TRUE OR FALSE

5. "Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen...disputing with Stephen." ACTS 6:9 TRUE OR FALSE

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:**

6. "And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the (JAIL, COUNCIL)."

ACTS 6:12

**Lesson Summarized by:**

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