

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read Acts 6:1-7 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Is there anything you don't understand? Is there anything you'd like to discuss?
- 4) Why did the apostles consider caring for widows important?
- 5) Why was the unity of the church threatened by this situation?
- 6) What do the apostles mean in verse 2? Were the apostles too good to serve widows?
- 7) How did these seven men assist the apostles? How was their role similar to that of deacons today?
- 8) Read 1 Timothy 3:-13 together. In this passage Paul lays out the qualifications for both elders (pastors) and deacons.
- 9) What do you notice about the differences between the qualifications for these two roles? In other words, how are elders and deacons different from one another biblically?
- 10) What is your reaction to the conversion of these priests? (Acts 6:7). Who were these priests? Why is this verse significant?
- 11) What does this passage teach about appointing leaders in the local church?
- 12) End your time in prayer. Pray specifically for your local church; pray for unity and ask God to continue to advance the gospel. Additionally, ask God to help you apply the things you've discussed and learned during this time of study.

* Some of these questions taken and adapted from: Tony Merida, <u>Exalting Jesus in Acts</u> (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2017), 98.

** Regarding women serving as deacons, please check out this article by Tom Schreiner - <u>https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/bible-support-female-deacons-yes/</u>