

ACTS – Deacons  
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Acts 6  
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**Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**There is purpose in problems**

They can be the hinge that opens the door to something new.

\*Do you typically think of problems in this way?

\*When has a problem led to a totally new way of operating for you?

**The early church looked honestly at a problem that was happening in their midst**

Read and discuss Acts 6:1-7(NIV)

*6 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”*

*<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*

*<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

\*What does this passage tell us about God? About people?

\*What can we learn about handling conflicts and problems from this passage?

\*What is notable about the focus of the Apostles? About the qualifications of the leaders they appointed?

**Our ability to see certain problems is a calling to step into them**

Often, if He is showing us something, it is a personal invitation to us.

\*What is uniquely frustrating or annoying to you? What is the thing you can't look away from?

\*How might you have been wired to engage successfully in that problem?

\*Do you have an example of a way you have seen this unlocking purpose through a problem in your or someone else's life?

\*Is there a Kingdom purpose the Holy Spirit is calling you to be a part of right now?