

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS **IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Lesson 14 – The Choosing of the Seven - [Acts 6:1-7](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

The Seven Chosen to Serve

¹During this time, when the number of followers of the Lord was multiplying, the Greek-speaking Jews complained against the native Jews, claiming that their widows were not given their fair share of food when it was given out each day.

²So the twelve apostles called a meeting of all the followers, and said, “It doesn’t seem right to us that we should neglect the study and ministry of the word of God in order to oversee the distribution of food.

³“So, dear friends, choose seven men from among you who are wise and highly respected, and full of the Holy Spirit. We will then turn this task over to them.

⁴“And we will continually devote ourselves to prayer and to the teaching of God’s message.”

⁵This arrangement pleased everyone. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a Gentile who had earlier been converted to Judaism.

⁶Then they brought these men to the apostles, who prayed and then placed their hands on them *as they asked God to bless them*.

⁷So God’s message continued to go out in ever greater ways, and the number of followers in Jerusalem continued to grow rapidly. And continually there were also large numbers of Jewish priests surrendering in obedience to the faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 14 – The Choosing of the Seven - [Acts 6:1-7](#)

181. What complaint did the Grecian Jews make? ([6:1](#))
182. What did the apostles—the Twelve—do in response to criticism? ([6:2-4](#))
183. Why did the Twelve choose prayer and teaching over caring for the poor? ([6:2-4](#))
184. What did the Twelve tell the other believers to do? ([6:3](#))

185. How did the group respond to the apostles' proposal? (6:5)
186. Who was selected to serve the widows? (6:5)
187. Who chose the seven candidates? (6:5)
188. How were the men given authority to do their task? (6:6)
189. What was the effect of the appointment of certain people to serve the widows? (6:7)
190. How did the church fare after the apostles delegated the serving of food to others? (6:7)

Lesson 15 - Stephen Seized - [Acts 6:8-15](#)

Stephen Is Arrested

⁸Now Stephen was a man full of faith and power, and he was actively engaged in performing great miracles and signs among the people.

⁹But opposition sprang up from some members of what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen. These were men from Cyrene, Alexandria, and the provinces of Cilicia and Asia.* They confronted Stephen and began arguing with him.

*Acts 6:9 – “The provinces of Cilicia and Asia.” The western coast of Asia Minor, which is now Turkey.

¹⁰But the Holy Spirit gave Stephen such wisdom when he answered that they couldn't refute him.

¹¹So they secretly convinced some men to lie about him and say, “We heard him curse and slander Moses and God.”

¹²That really stirred the people up, including the elders and teachers of the Law. And, rushing at him, they grabbed hold of him and forced him to go with them and appear before the Council.

¹³There they also produced false witnesses, who said, “This fellow never stops making damaging remarks against this holy place and the Law of Moses!

¹⁴“We even heard him say that this Jesus, the Nazarene, will destroy this Temple and change the customs Moses gave us!”

¹⁵Everyone who sat in the Council looked intently at Stephen, and as they looked into his face, his face appeared to them like the face of an angel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 15 - Stephen Seized - [Acts 6:8-15](#)

191. Who was Stephen? ([6:8](#))
192. What kind of person was Stephen? ([6:8](#))
193. Besides caring for the needs of the widows, what did Stephen do among the people? ([6:8](#))
194. Who opposed Stephen? ([6:9](#))
195. Why couldn't Stephen's opponents get the better of him? ([6:10](#))
196. What kind of charges did Stephen's enemies make against him? ([6:11](#))
197. How did the people react to the charges against Stephen? ([6:12](#))
198. How did the false witnesses misrepresent Stephen? ([6:13-14](#))
199. Why did certain people consider Stephen dangerous? ([6:13-14](#))
200. When those in the Sanhedrin looked at Stephen, what did they see? ([6:15](#))
201. What did the expression on Stephen's face show about his relationship to God? ([6:15](#))