

**Acts 6:1-7**

<b>New Revised Standard Version</b>	<b>New King James Version</b>	<b>The Message</b>
<p><sup>1</sup>Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, <sup>4</sup>while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.”</p>	<p><sup>1</sup>Now in those days, when <i>the number of</i> the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of <i>good</i> reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; <sup>4</sup>but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”</p>	<p><sup>1-4</sup> During this time, as the disciples were increasing in numbers by leaps and bounds, hard feelings developed among the Greek-speaking believers “Hellenists” toward the Hebrew-speaking believers because their widows were being discriminated against in the daily food lines. So the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples. They said, “It wouldn’t be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. So, friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we’ll assign them this task. Meanwhile, we’ll stick to our assigned tasks of prayer and speaking God’s Word.”</p>
<p><sup>5</sup>What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.</p>	<p><sup>5</sup>And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, <sup>6</sup>whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.</p>	<p><sup>5-6</sup>The congregation thought this was a great idea. They went ahead and chose  Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas, a convert from Antioch.  Then they presented them to the apostles. Praying, the apostles laid on hands and commissioned them for their task.</p>
<p><sup>7</sup>The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.</p>	<p><sup>7</sup>Then 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.</p>	<p><sup>7</sup>The Word of God prospered. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased dramatically. Not least, a great many priests submitted themselves to the faith.</p>

## Acts 6:1-7

### Verse 1:

1. Who are the two groups involved? What sets each group apart from the other?
2. What is the complaint being lodged? What subgroup is the focus of the complaint? Conjecture: to whom would this complaint be lodged?
3. Which group does this verse imply is in charge of the food distribution?
4. Do you think the action made in the complaint was intentional? Natural?

### Verse 2:

5. Who are the twelve? To which group do they belong? Who are the community of the disciples? To which group do they belong?
6. What is the complaint made by the twelve? How does their complaint mirror the one raised in the first verse? How is it different?
7. What activities come to mind when you hear, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables."
8. Thinking back to verse 1 and conjecturing about who was in charge of the food distribution, do you think the twelve were doing this activity?

### Verses 3-4

9. What solution do the twelve propose?
10. What "job title" would you give the duties of the seven? Of the twelve?
11. Does our society hold one of these jobs as more important than the other? If so, how might the nature of the complaint raised by the twelve have set up this valuation?
12. What the "job qualifications" for the seven?

### Verses 5-6

13. What is the reaction of the community to the proposal made by the twelve?
14. What qualifications do they bring to the job for which they have been chosen? How are the qualifications set forth in verse 5 different than those set forth in verse 3?
15. What particular need does Nicolaus' background address?
16. How are the seven "installed" or "on-boarded" for their new jobs?

### Verse 7

17. What three things are mentioned in this verse? Do you think these are a direct result of the actions taken in the preceding verses?
18. Which of the three things mentioned sets the stage for this sect of Jews to eventually split off and form the new religion of Christianity?