

My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 16 - Acts 6:1-7

Summary of this week's teaching: This week's passage centers on growing pains that the early church experienced. The issue was that favoritism seemed to be shown toward Hebrew widows while the Greek speaking Hellenist widows were treated as second-class citizens. Rather than growing into an ungodly schism, this situation turned out to be a healthy turning point for the church. The apostles, clear in their God-given mandate to spread the gospel, were swamped and could not oversee this important ministry. So, qualified believers were chosen to spread the mantle of leadership, to multiply the ministry of the early church, and to allow gifted believers to participate in ministry. What could have ended in evil God used for good.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What was the most challenging aspect of your last week, and why? Do you see any ways that God might be using these challenges for good?

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 6:1-7, and Romans 8:28.

1. How did the Lord use this situation for good?
2. What can we learn from the apostle's response to this situation?
3. What other lessons can we learn from this passage?

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. How have you personally connected with the Lord this week?
2. What lessons has He been teaching you lately?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Is this week's passage an example of Romans 8:28 being fulfilled? If so, how? If not, why not?
2. Have you ever seen God use the challenges of your life for His glory and your good? If so, would you mind sharing about it?

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. This week's passage began with people identifying and addressing a problem. Are there problems in your life that you have been avoiding for fear of repercussions? If so, what steps can you take to bring these issues into the Light and find godly solutions?

