



DISCERNING GOD'S CALL

SEVEN CHOSEN

Acts 6:1-7

BACKGROUND:

In the early days of the church the Apostles struggled to figure out an effective and efficient way to organize themselves. This uncertainty led to conflict. Something needed to be done to bring order to the chaos.

SCRIPTURE:

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. 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 at tables. 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, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.' 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. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

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.



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- How do the people in the story hear God's call to them?
- How open are they to God's call?
- What might this passage say to our community of faith?