



## LEADERSHIP OVERSIGHT OF THE CHURCH

WEEK 3

# NOTES

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# WARM-UP

- Tell us about one group of friends you like hanging out with. Why do you enjoy being with them?
- Whose leadership do you admire? Why?
- Would you consider yourself to be more of a follower or a leader? Why?

# WORD

*Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

*Acts 6:1-7*

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If every Christian is called to help creation flourish (Genesis 1:28), to make disciples (Matthew 18:18-20), and to become equipped to help the whole Church grow (Ephesians 4:11-16), then every Christian is called to lead.

When it comes to leadership, the Bible has a lot to say about what it is, how we should lead, and how to raise up new leaders. We can study and use the leadership lessons found in Acts 6:1-7. This passage outlines significant biblical principles for leadership.

## 1. LEADERS RECOGNIZE THEIR LIMITS AND CREATE A PLURALITY OF LEADERS WITH DIFFERING GIFTS AND ABILITIES TO SUPPORT THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH.

*"2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.*

*Acts 6:2*

Because of the growing numbers of disciples back in those days, there's an arising complaint that needs to be addressed in delegating the tasks. It is not that the ministry of service is looked down upon, but even the Apostles, as gifted as they were, could not handle everything by themselves. Up until this point they had been the primary preachers as well as the coordinators. They now felt as if the needs were so great that they would have to choose between either leading the preaching and teaching, or leading mercy, but not both.

The church thrives when a variety of leaders with a variety of abilities are caring for the needs and development of the entire body. When the majority of the ministry is carried out by a small group of essential personnel, it weakens.

## 2. HEALTHY BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP INTENTIONALLY PURSUES DISCIPLING RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL ADVANCING IN THE WORLD.

*"3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.*

*Acts 6:3*

We do not know when these seven chosen men had become Christians. We do know that they had received training and had prior opportunities to serve, which made them an obvious choice for this new position. Verse 3 of this passage teaches us that it is crucial to look for leaders who exhibit particular traits of character. These characteristics are difficult to pinpoint right away; they must be something that develops and is seen over time. When the need for new leaders arose, these seven men were prepared to step up since the Apostles had a sufficient relationship with them.

Discipleship also equips others for the work of ministry, helping them discover their strengths and gifts, and preparing them for the good works God might have for them.

This is a great example of the importance of discipleship in action. Before we train new leaders, we shouldn't sit back and wait for an obvious leadership need to emerge. When we intentionally pursue discipleship, we will build a group of people who are prepared to serve as leaders whenever new demands arise.

## 3. GOOD LEADERSHIP AIMS FOR THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH THROUGH GOD'S WORD

*7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

*Acts 6:7*

The Word of God increases, and that is the only reason why the church increases. The growth of the congregation is a direct result of the increase of the Word! Church growth has to do more with the Word than with signs or miracles. The greatest gift of God to His Church is the Word and its growth.

# APPLICATION

- Who mentors you? How can you become a mentor to others?
- Who are you leading and helping follow Jesus? How can you help others know and follow God this week?
- What do you think will it take for you to start a Victory Group in your school, work, or with your family and friends? What can you do this coming week to start working on this goal?

# PRAYER

- Thank God for His grace in your life and for the mentors He has blessed you with.
- Pray that you will lead others to Him by example. Pray that you will serve others, just as Jesus did.
- Pray for those you know who aren't following God yet. Pray that you will help them know God and walk with Him. Believe God for their salvation.



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