

REFERENCES: ACTS 6:1-7; THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, PP. 87-96.

Seven Special Helpers

Do you like working with your mom or dad while you make a cake or wash the car? It's more fun to share the work. A long time ago some people were chosen to help the apostles in a special way.

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again," he answered.

hat is all that noise?" Peter asked.
Matthew sighed.
"Some of the new believers are arguing



"What are they arguing about?" Peter asked.

"Well," Matthew explained, "some of the believers who are not from our area—the ones who speak the Greek language—are complaining that the widows in their group aren't getting as much food to eat as the Hebrew widows." Matthew sighed again. "It's so sad to hear them argue."

"Well, arguing is wrong!" Peter said firmly. "Let's call the people together and see what we can do about this."

Memory Verse

"Share with God's people who need help."

ROMANS 12:13, ICB.

The Message

God's people work together to help others.

So that is what they did. When the believers were gathered together, the apostles stood up and spoke. “We apostles do not want to have to stop our work of preaching and teaching the Word of God in order to serve food. We have an idea,” they said. “Pick seven good men. Men who are wise. Men who are filled with the Holy Spirit. We will put them in charge of giving food to the widows.”

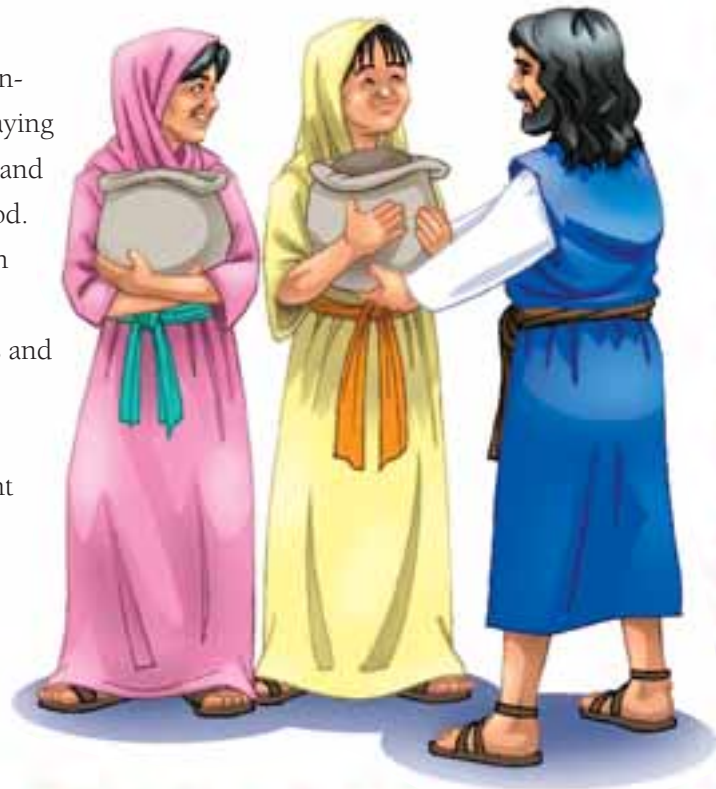
The believers smiled at each other. It was a good idea. It was a good solution.

So the believers set about choosing the seven men. And they chose carefully. They chose men who were wise and full of the Holy Spirit. They chose men who were honest and truthful. Then the believers brought the seven new helpers, Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, to the apostles.

The apostles were pleased. They gathered around the seven men and laid their hands on them and prayed. This meant that the seven were being set aside to do a special work for God. The apostles prayed that God would bless the men and help them take care of the widows.

So the apostles were able to continue their own special work of praying and preaching and teaching. More and more people heard the Word of God. More and more became believers in Jesus. All kinds of people believed. Shopkeepers and farmers. Weavers and sandal makers. Even some of the priests from the Temple.

All the believers were important in the family of God. And the poor widows who needed food were loved and cared for. We can be God’s helpers too. What can we do to help hungry people?



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story and review the memory verse:

SharePretend to distribute something.

with God's peoplePoint to others.

who need help. . .Put hands together with sad look on face.

Romans 12:13 . . .Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Encourage your child to share their Official Helper Certificate made in Sabbath School with a church member as they do something to care for that person (send an encouraging note, help with yard work, deliver food, sing a song, etc.).

MONDAY

How many deacons did the apostles select to help them? (seven) Help your child list seven ways to help others.

Work with your child to do a chore. Discuss how much easier it is to do it together. Talk about the apostles and the deacons.

TUESDAY

Ask your child: If there is only one cookie and two people want it, would there be an argument?



How could you solve that problem? What do you argue about? (Where to sit in the car, who gets to play with a toy, etc.) Help your child solve the problem.

Before prayer, sing a caring song.

WEDNESDAY

Read together Acts 6:1-7. Ask: What do you think about helping others? How do you think the widows felt about the seven men?

Have your child feed you some food; then you feed them. Ask: How does it feel to help someone? To be helped?

THURSDAY

Help your child make something for someone who is sick.

Have your child pretend that they are a health-care worker and that you are hurt. They can use strips of cloth for bandages. Talk about how the seven deacons took care of sick people too.

Pray for someone in your church who is sick.

FRIDAY

Act out the Bible story with your family. Have seven toys represent the seven deacons. Have your child point to them one by one as you read the deacons' names.

