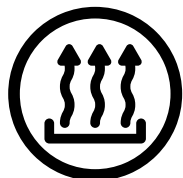




ACTS: THE STORY CONTINUES



WARM-UP

Have you ever started something and were immediately good at it?
What was it?

Pray for your time together as a group.

ACTS 6:1-7 (NIV)

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.



All the names listed are Greek names. So Greeks were appointed to help the Greek-cultured (hellenistic jew) widows. What truths about the church can we learn from this detail?



Why do you think the apostles said it "would not be right" (vs.2) for them to fulfill the task of making sure the distribution of food was even?



Our world has so many needs, how do we discern where to act?



How have you seen different members of the body expressing their gifts at Hope?



It can be easy to compare the gifts we've been given to other people's gifts and feel that ours are less important. How do you fight this "gift envy" in your life or how would you help someone else fight it?



What are some needs that you see in the church today that are similar to the needs of the Hellenistic Jews in Acts 6?



What would it look like for your small group to come together and meet some of those needs at Hope?

Optional Activity

Take a spiritual gifts assessment and discuss your results! What stood out?

What was unexpected? How can we lean into our spiritual gifts?

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



What gifts might God be calling you to use for His Church? How can you use them to serve the body of Christ at Hope, in your small group, and in the world?

Note: If you would like to learn more about who you are and what gifts you have, we would encourage you to take Hope's SHAPE or the Know Thy Self classes.