

Volume 12 (SUM15) Adult-Kid Connections

Unit 34, Session 2: Seven Men Were Chosen

Acts 6:1-7

Christ Connection:

Preschool: Jesus' friends believed that everyone in the church had an important job to do to serve God's people and help spread the gospel. Jesus wants us to serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the news of His death and resurrection.

Kids: The apostles believed that everyone in the church had an important job to do to serve God's people and help spread the gospel. Jesus wants us to serve others so that the message of His death and resurrection can be heard and believed all over the world.

Adults: As we read in Acts 6, the church needs different kinds of people to take on different kinds of roles. At least one truth we can draw from this is that Christians need other Christians. This is the case when it comes to our reading the Bible just as much as it is for anything else.

Christian community is one of the greatest gifts we have as believers, and the ability to gather together around God's Word is a special aspect of that gift. Sometimes we think of Bible reading as if we were simply individuals in isolation studying words on a page. This may be one aspect of reading the Bible, but Scripture shows us that God's Word belongs to *us* before it belongs to *me*. We are to read this Book together. Watch how Paul, in Colossians 3:16-17, connected God's Word to our community gatherings:

16 Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

What does it mean for us to "let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among" us? As we saw in the previous point, all of the Scriptures bear witness to Christ, the Messiah; so the message of the Scriptures, what we know as both the Old and New Testaments, should fill our lives and conversations.

The fact is that when it comes to reading the Bible the way it should be read, we need each other. We need the multiple voices around the room. We need perspective. We need admonition. We need the multi-voice "choir" that leads us to God's throne on a consistent basis. We need the Word to "dwell richly" among us so we can encourage one another to go on living for Christ and advancing His cause in the world. We were never meant to read the Bible nor attempt to live the Christian life in isolation from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Before your devotional time, think of "jobs" each of your kids could perform during your family time. Maybe the youngest child could find the family Bible. Another child could retell the story. One could lead the devotion. Make sure each family member has a specific job to do either before, during, or after the devotional.

Ask: "What problem was the church having in our Bible story?"

Remind your kids that some of the Greek-speaking widows were not receiving food. Because the apostles were devoted to prayer and preaching, they couldn't make sure all of the widows were getting what they needed. They needed other believers to help take care of important jobs around the church.

Ask: "How did the apostles fix the problem?"

The apostles chose seven men among to specifically help the widows. They chose men who were wise and full of the Holy Spirit. The men needed to make good decisions and obey God. The apostles prayed over the seven men. The apostles could now continue to preach while the seven men devoted their time to the widows. Both jobs were important—the job of serving people and the job of spreading the good news of Jesus to others.

Think of ways your family could serve right in your own neighborhood or through your church. Decide on an action plan to make it happen.

Pray, thanking God that all believers have an important job to do for Him. Ask Him to reveal to each of you what that job may be.