

Helping at Church

Acts 6:1-7

After Jesus died and went back to Heaven, the disciples told everyone about Jesus and God's love. The disciples preached in the temple, and they went from home to home. They talked about Jesus to everyone who would listen.

Groups of people who loved Jesus met together in homes. These groups of people were the church. Sometimes when the people met together they ate a meal. Sometimes they prayed together. Always the disciples were there to help the people.

But as more and more people heard about Jesus and believed in Him as their Savior, there just weren't enough disciples to go around. Too many people needed help, and there were not enough helpers. The church had a real problem.

One day the disciples called all the Christians together. "God has given us a special job," they said. "We are to pray and teach people what God says in His Word. We want to help people, too, but now there are just too many people for us to do that. Here is what we want you to do: Choose seven men who love God and who are very wise. They will have the job of being special helpers to all of you. We will go on teaching the Bible because that is what we believe God wants us to do."

"Oh yes," agreed the people. "That is a good idea." The people chose Stephen and Philip and five other wise men who loved God to be the special helpers. The disciples prayed for these men that they would be able to do their jobs well.

The special helpers took care of the people who needed help. Sometimes they gave them food and clothing. They were especially helpful to ladies whose husbands had died.

The Bible says that, as the disciples and their helpers worked together, more people heard God's Word and many more people became Christians.

Our churches today still have men who are the pastor's special helpers. We call these men "deacons". They are wise men who love God and who are willing to help people.

Bible Verse to Learn

"Serve the LORD with gladness" (Psalm 100:2).