

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS

MAY 10, 2020

This week we are going to learn about how the early church organized their work. Below is a puzzle of some equations. See if you can complete the equations. Some equations have more than one correct answer. The key is to figure out how they all fit together.

	+		=	7			-		=	7	
				-				-			
	7	X		=	7		7	=		+	
					+		=	7			
							+				
	7	-		=	7		7	=		-	7
				7						7	
				+		=	7			=	
				7						7	

The number 7 is an important part of our story. With the believers sharing all they had, there was a lot of organizing that needed to be done. Today we are going to learn about how they divided the work. Let's turn in our Bibles to Acts 6. With so many people living close together and sharing their resources disagreements were bound to happen. We are going to read about one. Read Acts 6:1-4.

What is the conflict?

What is the proposed solution?

Why don't the 12 disciples want to be in charge of the distribution of the food?

What are they going to do instead?

Read Acts 6:5-7.

Only men were chosen, because at that time women generally were not allowed to lead. But why did they choose the men they did?

Why do you think the disciples prayed over the seven chosen?

Do you think seven was a good number of leaders? Why or why not?

Since we are talking about seven so much today, we are going to make some seven lists. First use your Bible to write the names of the seven chosen leaders.

CHOSEN LEADERS
AND NOW

WAYS THEY SERVED

OTHER WAYS TO SERVE THEN

- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1. | 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. | 2. |
| 3. | | 3. |
| 4. | | 4. |
| 5. | | 5. |

6.

7.

The twelve original disciples had one way to serve. The seven chosen had another way to serve. List the ways of they served. In the last column list other ways to serve either in the early church or now.

One way we can all serve is by praying. Think of seven people for whom you can pray.

I'm sure you came up with some great ways to serve. Act out what it would look like if you were doing some of the acts of service you wrote on your lists. Can your family guess how you are serving. Remember when you are acting you can't talk or make sounds.

Acts is a book of history that tells us about the "Acts of the Apostles." Apostles is another name for the original twelve disciples of Jesus. It is a way to tell them apart from the many, many disciples who followed Jesus' teaching. As we learn more and more stories about the apostles and other disciples it will be helpful to know how Acts is structured. Below are the four sections of Acts. Take some time this week to read the sections and find a couple verses that summarize each section. Seeing the overall flow of the book on one page can help us remember the stories we learn.

BEGINNING THE COMMUNITY (Acts 1:1 – 7:60) The apostles and disciples receive the Holy Spirit and form a community	PAUL BECOMES A CHRISTIAN LEADER Acts 8:1 – 12:25 Paul stops attacking Christians and becomes one himself.
THE EXPANDING MISSION Acts 13:1 – 30:38 God's love is shares with all kinds of people and in different countries	TO JERUSALEM AND ROME Acts 21:1 – 28:31 Paul returns to Jerusalem and faces many dangers there and as he journeys to Rome