

SERVANTS WHO LEAD, LEADERS WHO SERVE
ROCKY RIVER CHURCH – LEADER COMMISSIONING SERVICE – 8/17/25
JIMMY BRITT, LEAD PASTOR

OUR VISION: *The vision of Rocky River Church is to give people the best opportunity possible to become fully committed, growing followers of Jesus Christ.*

ACTS 6:1-7 (NIV)

¹In 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. ²So 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. ³Brothers 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 ⁴and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵This 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. ⁶They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

THE BIG IDEA: God calls and equips leaders to serve so that the mission of the church can move forward.

FOUR TEACHING POINTS:

#1. The Problem: _____.

“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.” -Acts 6:1

Principle of Spiritual Readiness: Our preparation precedes God’s blessings.

#2. The Solution: _____.

“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. 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 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” -Acts 6:2-4

At least three things happen when leadership is shared:

1. The preaching of the Word is not neglected – it continues to go forth.
2. Practical needs are met in the church and community.
3. The church grows closer, deeper, and larger. The people grow closer together.

#3. The Selection: _____.

“Choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.” -Acts 6:3a

“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. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.”

-Acts 6:5-6

“When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’” -Mark 10:41-45

#4. The Result: _____.

“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.” -Acts 6:7

When the leadership structure is healthy, at least three things happen:

1. The Word spreads.
2. Disciples multiply.
3. Miracles happen. We’re told that even priests – former opponents of Jesus and His Church – were converted.

Three commitments every Christian leader should make:

1. Continue to grow in Christ.
2. Stay focused on people.
3. Stay faithful to the mission.

