

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Family of Servants on Mission

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
September 20, 2026



- **God has created us as a church to be a Family of Servants on Mission.**

Acts 5:42-6:12 (NLT) And everyday, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah". But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. ³ And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. ⁴ Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word." ⁵ Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). ⁶ These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. ⁷ So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. ⁸ Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. ⁹ But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. ¹⁰ None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. ¹¹ So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, "We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God." ¹² This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law. So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council.

1) We are a beautiful & diverse Family.

^{1b} "But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food."

2) We are Servants with different gifts & roles - all important & needed.

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1 Corinthians 12:12,18b (NLT) "The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ...^{18b}and God has put each part just where He wants it."

3) We are on Mission, to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

¹ "And everyday, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: 'Jesus is the Messiah'".

⁷ "So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too."

^{12b} "So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council."

Big Idea: Following Jesus means becoming a Family of Servants on Mission for the glory of Jesus.

Application:

- **Find your people.**
- **Discover & use your gifts.**
- **Join Jesus on mission.**

Every member. Every gift. Every generation.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Family of Servants on Mission
#6 of 6 - September 20, 2026

Context

1. Read Acts 5:42-6:12. What was happening in the early church in Acts 5–6 that created both opportunities for growth and challenges for the growing community? What do you notice about the diversity and needs within this young church?
2. Why do you think the apostles responded to the problem by empowering seven others to serve rather than trying to handle everything themselves? What does this reveal about healthy leadership and shared ministry?

Observation

3. What do you notice about the qualifications of the seven people chosen to serve? Why do you think being “well respected,” “full of the Spirit,” and “full of wisdom” mattered for this ministry?
4. Look at Acts 6:7: “So God’s message continued to spread.” What connection do you see between the church addressing relational needs, empowering servants, and the Gospel continuing to spread?

Meaning

5. Discuss the statement: “*A healthy family isn’t a family without conflict; it’s a family committed to reconciliation.*” How does the response of the early church help us understand what it means to belong to a diverse Christian family?
6. What does Acts 6, together with 1 Corinthians 12, teach us about the different gifts and roles God gives His people? How does this challenge the idea that some forms of ministry are more important than others?

Application

7. Of the three applications—“*Find your people, discover and use your gifts, and join Jesus on mission*”—which one do you most need to pursue right now, and what would taking a practical step look like?
8. Where has God already placed you—your family, workplace, neighbourhood, school, friendships, sports, retirement community, or Impact Community—and what might it look like for you to join Jesus on mission there this week?



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