

**Serving from the Inside Out**  
4-25-26

A 75 year **Harvard Grant study** showed that **Children** who **Do Regular Chores** grow into more successful, empathetic, and responsible adults. Chores foster self-efficacy, work ethic, and teamwork, helping kids understand their role in the family unit. Starting chores early builds character and independence, reducing overparenting.

- Meaning, Significance & Purpose come from being part of a \_\_\_\_\_.

*"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each individual member is the team." Phil Jackson*

**Community** was **foundational** and **obligatory** in the Bible, serving as the primary vehicle for fulfilling commandments, maintaining holiness, and ensuring survival. It transformed individual faith into collective responsibility, shifting \_\_\_\_\_ from "I" to "We" through shared destiny, social support, and collective worship.

**Romans 12:4-6** Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members **do not all have the same function**, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and **each member belongs to all the others**. We each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us.

**SIMI COMMUNITY CHURCH:**

*"Love God, Love Others, Serve the World"*

1. Earn the **right** to be heard by serving outside the family.
2. Use our **gifts** to build others up \_\_\_\_\_ the family.

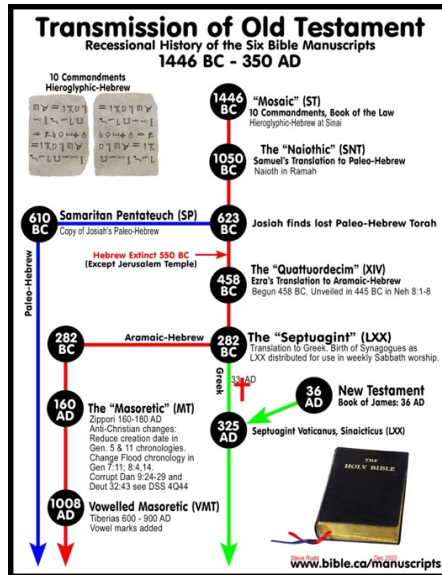
**SERVING FROM THE INSIDE OUT:**

**1. Evaluate the \_\_\_\_\_ of the community**

**Acts 6:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the **Grecian Jews** among them complained against the **Hebraic Jews** because **their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food**.

**CHANGES IN THE COMMUNITY:**

1. The church had \_\_\_\_\_ rapidly.
  2. Different groups or cliques coming into the \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. A problem or \_\_\_\_\_ surfaced.
- The Hebraic Jews had been taught to reject & despise anything Grecian and were probably having difficulty getting rid of all their prejudice.
  - The Grecian Jews (Hellenists) were Jews who had been scattered, deported, and dispersed all over the world by the Romans. (vs. 9)



**Nehemiah 7:1 (NIV)** After the wall had been rebuilt... **8:1-9<sup>1</sup>** all the people came together as one... They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel... <sup>3</sup> Ezra read it aloud from daybreak till noon (4-6 hours!)... And **all the people listened attentively** to the Book of the Law. <sup>4</sup> Ezra the teacher of the Law **stood on a high wooden platform** built for the occasion... <sup>7</sup> The Levites... instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. <sup>8</sup> They read from the Book of the Law of God, **making it clear and giving the meaning** so that **the people understood what was being read.** <sup>9</sup> Then Nehemiah... said to them all, "This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.



## 2. Examine the \_\_\_\_\_ in the community

**Acts 6:2 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup> 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.**"

- ✓ Primary gift = where I am \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Secondary gift = where I am needed.

**1 Corinthians 12:27** Now you are the **body of Christ**, and **each one** of you is **a part of it**.

**Ephesians 4:11-12** God gave...some to be **pastors** and teachers **to prepare God's people** for **works of ministry**, so that the **body of Christ** may be **built up**...

- THE PEOPLE ARE THE "\_\_\_\_\_".
- THE PASTORS ARE THE "EQUIPPERS".

## 3. Empower the \_\_\_\_\_ of the community

**Acts 6:3-4 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup> Brothers, **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** <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.

Past Experiences: educational, familial, \_\_\_\_\_ (successes & failures)

## 4. Employ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the community

**Acts 6:5 (NIV)** <sup>5</sup> 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**.

- All seven appointees have Greek names.

- The appointees would probably be more passionate about protecting the rights of their \_\_\_\_\_.

## 5. Endorse the \_\_\_\_\_ of the community

**Acts 6:6** (NIV) <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

- The laying on of hands in this context is not a formal rite of ordination into an office but a commissioning for a \_\_\_\_\_.
- It didn't transfer apostolic power so much as publicly ratify the choice of these men and confer on them the apostles' blessing.

## 6. Emphasize the \_\_\_\_\_ of opposition with the community

**Acts 6:7** (NIV) <sup>7</sup> 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.

- 8,000 Jewish priests were attached to the Temple ministry.
- The priests were the core of the church's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Acts 4:1–2** <sup>1</sup> The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. <sup>2</sup> They were greatly disturbed...

**Acts 5:17–18** <sup>17</sup> Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. <sup>18</sup> They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

- There was a social gulf between the ordinary priests and the upper-class chief priests because the upper-class priests \_\_\_\_\_ the ordinary priests economically.

**James 1:12** Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.