

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Studies in the Book of Acts

“Serving in Your Calling” – Acts 6:1-7

FELLOWSHIP

Southern California drivers can appreciate the the proverb, “Stay in your lane!” It’s this violation that usually causes a full traffic report on news radio every morning. Just a generation ago, each lane actually had a purpose, that if followed, meant the flow of traffic actually had some kind role. It’s been awhile since high school, but watching drivers on the freeway today, I don’t think those lane distinctions are taught anymore in Driving 101. Spiritually, we have lanes too, and even they can become congested. Pastor Brian in his message this week, highlighted a relevant tweet from Christian author, Ann Voskamp. She posted, “New Year: Know your lane. Know your Lord. Because: You will live your life as well as you know your lane and your Lord.” Quite a relevant point in light of story this week in Acts 6. As the early church was growing, it already found itself having to react and adjust to internal problems. It should be reassuring to us that even the church led by the Apostles had the need to redirect themselves, make changes, or resolve conflict. Today we can take hope that realigning ourselves back to the simplicity of God’s model can place his church back on track when we have distractions. Speaking about the importance of roles in the church, Pastor Brian cited these quotes from John Stott regarding Acts 6:

A vital principle is illustrated in this incident, which is of urgent importance to the church today. It is that God calls all his people to ministry, that he calls different people to different ministries, and that those called to ‘prayer and the ministry of the word’ must on no account allow themselves to be distracted from their priorities.

And...

Both pastoral work and social work are Christian ministries, that is, ways of serving God and his people. Both require spiritual people, ‘full of the Spirit’ to exercise them.

The story of the apostles being pulled out of their lane, and their ability to right the wheel again are an encouragement to us as believers to discover our calling and let God enable us to be a part of His work.

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together as a group Acts 6:1-7. Discuss those areas that can be applied, especially on the criteria of servant leaders in the church.

Acts 6:3-4 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- All believers have giftings from God that should be spiritually developed and matured. *How can we discover our spiritual gifts? What does it mean to be full of the Holy Spirit? What is a Word of Wisdom and when have you seen it exercised? How do we get to know the Lord better? Why does knowing Him help us know our calling?*
- The devil employs persecution, corruption, and distraction to prevent the church’s progress. Why was occupying the Apostles with administrative duties hurtful to the church? What are some of the distractions the devil uses today against the church? What are some of the distractions facing our church? **Read Luke 8:5-18.** *What in this parable distracted, and what was the solution?*
- The cultural differences in the early church hindered their care for widows. *How can the church embrace and enhance itself with its social differences instead of stumbling.*

PRAY



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Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen’s message from January 14, 2018.

Watch again: <https://cccm.com/teaching/the-spirit-the-church-and-the-world/video/serving-in-your-calling/>