

## **Deacons:**

What does Scripture say concerning deacons? (qualifications, responsibilities, etc).

Instructions: Over the next month, spend time in prayer, searching these verses, noting **observations** and **applications**.

### **Acts 6:1-7 (NASB95)**

**6** Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*.

<sup>2</sup> So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

<sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup> The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

<sup>6</sup> And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

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### **1 Timothy 3:8-13 (NASB95)**

<sup>8</sup> Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain,

<sup>9</sup> *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

<sup>10</sup> These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

<sup>11</sup> Women *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

<sup>12</sup> Deacons must be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households. <sup>13</sup> For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

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### **Titus 1:5-9 (NASB95)**

<sup>5</sup> For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

<sup>6</sup> *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

<sup>7</sup> For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

<sup>8</sup> but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

<sup>9</sup> holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.