

Understand your Bible

Suggested notes

Acts 6

What we will see in this chapter:

- How a problem in church welfare was resolved
- The witness of Stephen and the opposition it caused

1 Read the chapter

2 Questions to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes.

Chapter verses	Questions (to help with your notes)	Suggested notes
1	1. What problem did the church have?	A complaint arose because the Hellenist [Greek] widows were being neglected in the daily support.
2 to 4	2. What did the twelve say about the problem?	It wasn't appropriate that they should stop the preaching work, but they suggested that seven others be selected to sort the problem out.
5 and 6	3. What did the group of believers and the apostles do?	Seven men were appointed to ensure the Hellenist needy widows received as much care and help as their Jewish counterparts. The apostles then prayed and laid their hands on these men.
7	4. What was happening in Jerusalem?	The number of believers was increasing greatly including many priests.
8	5. What was remarkable about Stephen?	He was full of faith and power, performing great wonders and signs.
9 to 12	6. What did those who disputed with him do and why?	They stirred up the people and leaders, seized him, and brought him in to the council. They weren't able to argue against what he said.
13 to 15	7. What was Stephen accused of?	He was accused of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ blaspheming the temple and the law ➤ saying that Jesus will destroy the temple ➤ saying that Jesus will change Moses' customs

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3 Related theme: *Helping the needy.*

Have a look at these related verses and see this theme running through the New Testament. Make a note of the main point(s) in the verse(s).

Verse(s)	Main point(s)
Acts 11 v 28 to 30	The first-century believers send aid to their fellow believers in a time of famine.
Romans 15 v 25 to 27	Believers in Macedonia and Achaia help poor believers in Jerusalem.
1 Timothy 6 v 17 and 18	Timothy is told to tell the rich to be generous and ready to share.
James 2 v 15 and 16	James encourages believers to help fellow believers who have no clothes or food.
1 John 3 v 17	John says that if we don't respond to fellow believers' needs, we aren't showing God's love.