

2026
Believe
What's Greater

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.

Isaiah 53:1-2 (NKJV)



Timothy Baptist Church
timothybaptist.org
Bishop Tracy L. Boles,
Senior Pastor

Bible Study Lesson: **“Called to Serve, Anointed to Strengthen”**

A Biblical Study of the Deacon's Role in the Local Church

Primary Text: Acts 6:1-7

Facilitator: Bishop Tracy L. Boles, D. Min



Lesson Purpose

To ground deacons in the biblical origin, spiritual character, and missional function of the diaconate, showing how faithful service strengthens church unity and advances gospel impact.

Key Insight

Diakoneō — to serve actively and personally
“Serving tables is not beneath spiritual leadership—it is spiritual leadership.”



Series Overview (5 Lessons)

Lesson	Focus	Core Theme
1	The Problem That Produced Deacons	God uses tension to birth ministry
2	The Purpose of the Deacon	Serving people while protecting the Word
3	The Qualifications of a Deacon	Spiritual character over status
4	The Function of Deacons	Ministry that multiplies leadership
5	The Fruit of Faithful Deacons	Church growth follows healthy service



LESSON 1

When Ministry Growth Creates Ministry Strain

Text: Acts 6:1

Key Truth

Growth without structure leads to division; God responds by raising servant-leaders.

Teaching Outline

- 1. “In those days... the disciples were multiplying”**
 - Growth is a blessing—but it exposes weaknesses
- 2. A complaint arose**
 - Not doctrinal error, but *distributional neglect*
- 3. Cultural and linguistic tension**
 - Hellenists vs. Hebrews
 - Ministry problems often emerge at the margins



Teaching Expansion

- Growth exposed *organizational vulnerability*
- Neglect was **unintentional but real**
- Unity was threatened—not doctrine

Leadership Truth

Problems do not mean failure—*they signal the need for structure.*

Deacon Application

- Deacons exist to **close ministry gaps**
- Silence in neglect leads to division

Leadership Insight for Deacons

- Deacons are often called into **messy spaces**, not visible platforms
- Neglect—even unintentional—can fracture fellowship



Discussion Questions

- Why does growth often reveal stress points in churches?
- What modern equivalents exist to the “daily distribution”?

Practical Application

Deacons must be *observant, approachable,* and *responsive* before complaints become divisions.