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# Part II: The Church is Persecuted and Grows *(Acts 6-9)*

## Application Guide: Acts 6

### 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

**Choose one:**

- a. What talents do you think you have? How could you use them for Jesus?

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- b. Has anyone ever misunderstood something you've done with good intentions? Does it hurt when people say unkind things about you that are untrue? Give an example?

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### 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

**Background:** Sharing the Gospel is more than just about telling people about Jesus and the Bible. We mentioned in the Application Guide for Acts 3 that Paul always took up collections for the poor when he traveled. Church leaders in Acts were always helping to feed hungry people because there was no public welfare system in those times. Here in Acts 6, however, the work of helping widows and poor people get food was starting to take up so much of the Apostles' time that they needed help so they could spend more time preaching and teaching. This is why the Apostles appointed deacons—to help with people's physical needs.

How much time do you think your church/pathfinder club spends in each activity listed here?

- a. Teaching people about Bible doctrines.

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- b. Helping people understand how to have a relationship with Jesus.

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- c. Helping poor people find food, clothes and jobs.

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Do you think all these activities should have equal time allotment, or is one more important?

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It appears in Acts 6 that committing to spend more time helping the poor also helped Stephen to become a better witness. Why do you think that is? Verse 9 says that Stephen eventually started performing miracles with God's power. Why do you think all these amazing talents that God gave Stephen (ability to help the poor, preach, perform miracles, etc.) made the religious leaders so angry? Do you think the leaders in your church would get angry if you started performing miracles?

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**3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

- a. Think about all the things you do well and enjoy doing. Which of these things could somehow be used to help other people?

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- b. Talk with an adult or two that knows you well. Ask them what talents they think God has given you. Ask them to help you find ways to use these talents for Jesus.
- c. Set a goal for how much time you would like to spend in each of these activities each month: Bible Study, building up your relationship with Jesus, helping others.
- d. Share this list with someone who can help you accomplish your goal.

**4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

- a. Ask God to bring to mind the talents He wants you to use for Him.
- b. Ask God to help you think of someone who could help you learn to use your talents for Him.
- c. Ask Jesus to help you see the needs around you that you could help with.

**5. Outreach Idea**

Set a date to get started with the ideas you've thought about in your prayer time!

