



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

May 2, 2021 – Choosing the Seven (Acts 6:1-7)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Love

Last week we learned how the early believers shared everything, but hinted at discord later in the Book of Acts. This week the story talks about a conflict that arose and how the early believers handled the conflict. They solved the conflict by choosing seven men to oversee the daily distribution of food so that everyone got a fair share.

The story begins by describing a conflict between two groups in the early church. The issue involves the case of some widows not receiving enough food during the daily distribution of food. The friends of Jesus, the disciples, were in charge of the distribution of food, but the church had grown so fast and so big, they could not keep up with all they needed to do. Disagreements are not uncommon in churches' it happens today. What is important about this story is how they solved it.

The disciples' solution was to let the people choose seven people who were wise and good to share in ministry and oversee the food distribution. This made the church people very happy. They decided on the seven wise and good people. The friends of Jesus then said a prayer for the people and sent them to serve others.

The believers in Jesus came up with a solution to the conflict. They allowed the people involved to decide on the seven wise and good people who would oversee the food distribution. In doing so, the disciples admitted they could not do everything and needed others to help in the ministry. The church people showed love to the disciples and the church by choosing people to share the ministry load. The disciples showed love by admitting they could not do it all and asking for help.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Choosing the Seven, from Acts 6:1-7 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

⁶ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews^{1a} among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose

seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/th4vbuCCnDA>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Love – means a closeness and connection we feel with God and others. Our stories over the next few weeks will talk about love through service to others.

WONDER Together:

1. What do you think it means to help others?
2. Can we show love by helping others? How?
3. What might you choose to do this week to help others and show love?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 20 & 21). On page 21 (*and below*) you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

When the seven were chosen for their special task, the disciples laid hands on them and prayed for them. Then they were sent to serve.

Start a new ritual in your family by sharing a blessing. As you leave each morning, assign a different family member each day to lay hands on the heads of each person and say a simple blessing: “May your day be filled with love and service to others,” or say a blessing of your choosing.

Go in Peace

Blessing: Touch your child and say: **“You are a blessing to God and others.”**

Prayer: **Help me, God, to help others because I love them. Amen.**

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

Choosing the Seven

Acts 6:1-7

The community of believers was growing so fast, and the disciples, Jesus' followers, couldn't keep up.

The disciples held a meeting. "It is our job to tell people about Jesus," said the disciples. "We can't feed the widows and the poor, and still have time to teach about Jesus. We need help. Select seven believers who are wise and good. These seven people will feed the widows and help the poor."



I wonder: How can you serve and show God's love to others?

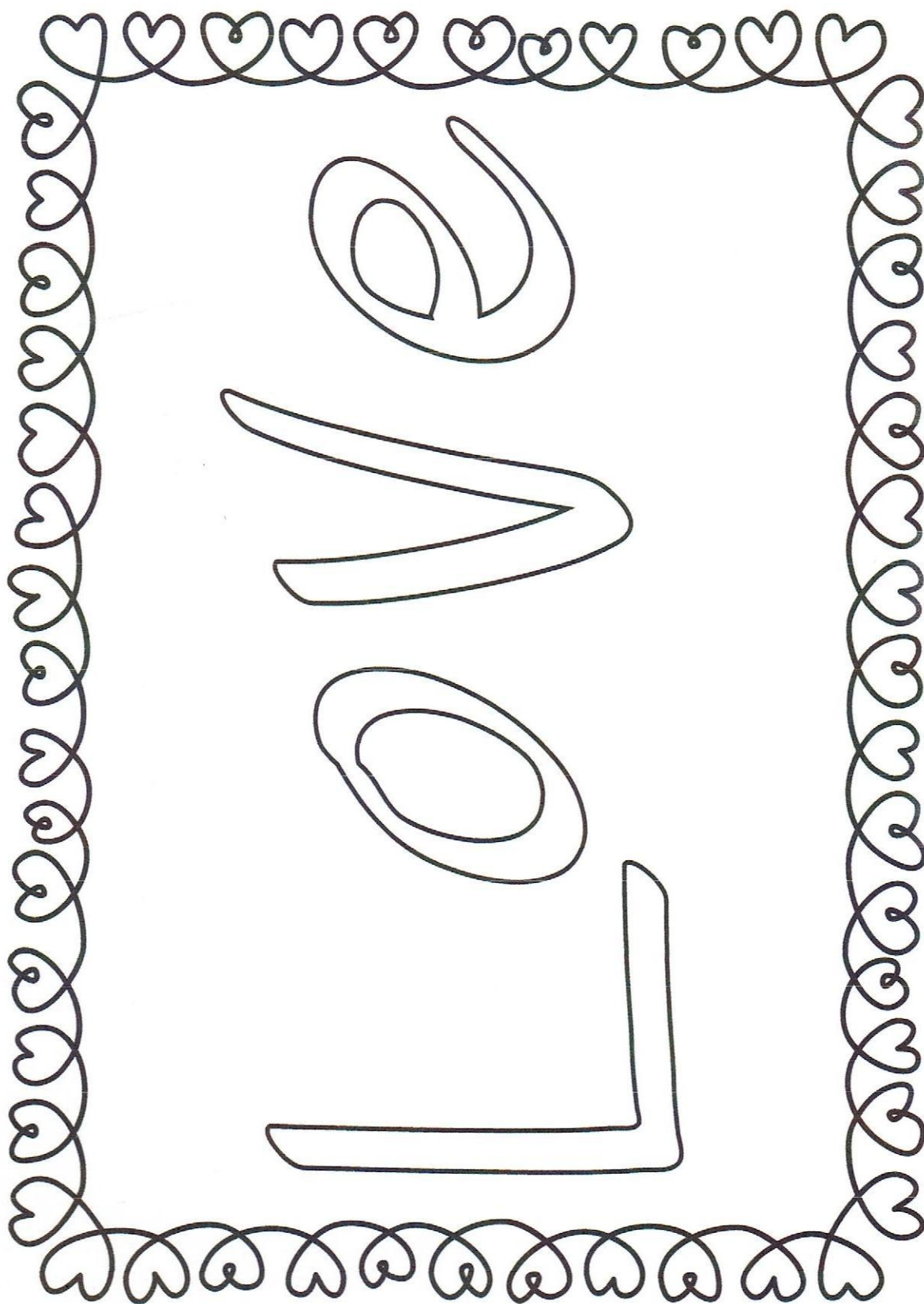
The other believers were happy the disciples chose to find some help. "We would like to choose these seven believers: Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus," said the community. The disciples said a prayer for the seven chosen and sent them to serve others.



Color Sheet for all



Unit 3 Faith Word



Preschool Activity

Spiritual Practice (and possible art)

Supplies: (Optional – make a copy of the activity sheet below and color with crayons)

- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice. (If you have printed the sheet, have them color it and then use it for the activity. If you did not print the sheet, just help them make the shape with their hands as they go through the steps below.)

Say: Hold your sheet with the hands making the heart close to their heart (or help your child place their fingers into a heart shape, like what is pictured and then place them to their heart.)

Close your eyes and repeat this prayer:

Help me, God, to help others because I love them. Amen

Wonder: Talk about ways they may help others to show their love.



"My Hands Can Help"

Journal Page



Early Elementary Activity

Campaign Poster

Supplies: print the activity sheet below

Say: **Our Bible story tells us about how the community of early Christians chose people to lead and serve. Take the Campaign Poster sheet of paper and pretend you are campaigning to be a leader in your community. What would you say about yourself to encourage people to select you? Have fun filling out the poster remembering how SPECIAL YOU ARE!!!**

Older Elementary Activity

Campaign Poster

Supplies: print the activity sheet below

Say: Our Bible story tells us about how the community of early Christians chose people to lead and serve. Take the Campaign Poster sheet of paper and pretend you are campaigning to be a leader in your community. What would you say about yourself to encourage people to select you? Have fun filling out the poster remembering how SPECIAL YOU ARE!!!

Self-portrait

Campaign Slogan

All about me

I can share God's love by . . .

What Is Love?

If you love me, you will obey what I command. John 14:15



A N G R Y D H I T Z F H U I W
M E A N U O A Q R U D E G H B
F H D O R L T S B V K N S Q B
P H R U Q X E A I C I I O X L
F P E G U E F Z E T F M V U G
F A C L X O U L C L M Y F Z Z
O B I D P S L E E W J H P L K
R H W T Z F T S V Y T F A T L
G I Z R H O U M J U C B T R H
I J W O R F U L R D E D I U P
V X G P B T U T E K P N E S E
I B Q L S J C L F H I O N T V
N C I M F M N I B G U N T I I
G H C Q H T T S D M J V D N L
F I V O U J E A L O U S J G P

Love Is:
protecting
patient
truthful
faithful
helpful
forgiving
kind
trusting

Love Is Not:
mean
angry
evil
proud
rude
selfish
hateful
jealous