

Spirit-Filled and Empowered to Serve

Parents: Do you ever feel like there's too much work that needs to be done and you don't have the time, energy, or resources to do it? In the Scripture reading for today we learn that people needed help and the twelve disciples couldn't do it all. God gave them just what they needed—seven men full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom called into action. Awesome things happened with more people serving. The Word of God spread and the number of disciples increased rapidly. Being empowered to serve helped grow God's Kingdom back then as well as it does today.

Read: *Acts 6:1-7 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 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. 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 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word." 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. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 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.*

Discuss: Imagine you had a big job to do, like painting all of the houses on your street, and you only had a week to finish it. What would you do? *Pray to God for guidance. Ask others to help, etc.*

The disciples couldn't serve all of the people that needed help so what did they say? Choose _____ (seven) men who are known to be full of the _____ (Spirit) and _____ (wisdom).

What happened after the seven men were chosen and prayed over? *The Word of God spread and the number of disciples grew. We see that being empowered to serve can help grow God's Kingdom.*

Key Point: We Praise You God for Your Gift of Service

We Praise You God

(Hands up in praise)

For Your Gift of Service

(Hands out and then kneel down)

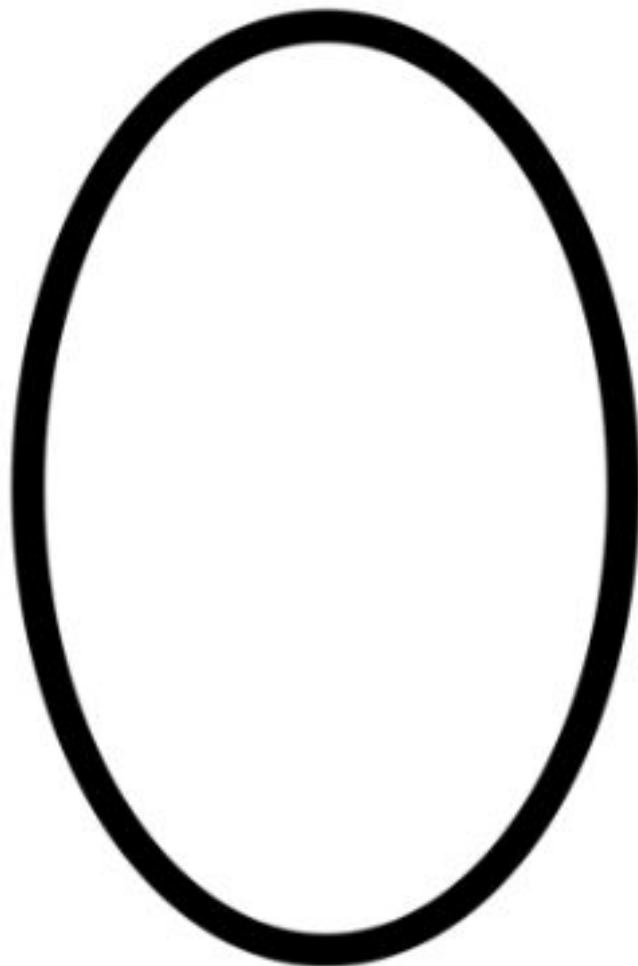
Family Activity: Have you played the game BINGO? Print out the game card below. Find a neighbor who matches the description and say hello! Play it with your sibling, parent, or a friend. See who crosses off a whole row or even all the boxes first. Let's be superheroes this week and serve one another in love.

Prayer: Lord, we love how You are so amazing. You don't need our help at all, and yet, You give us things to do to help! You know that we are happy when we serve You. Forgive us for the times when we don't want to and help us be joy-filled this week in serving others. We thank You and love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Think about someone in your life that serves others. Draw them on the coloring sheet below. Praise God for them and ask that He gives them energy to do His work.



Draw Your Hero



Key Point: We Praise You God for Your Gift of Service

We Praise You God
For Your Gift of Service

(Hands up in praise)
(Hands out and then kneel down)

Find a neighbor who matches the description. Say hello and cross off the box.

One who goes to church	One who has siblings	One who has green eyes	One who is an only child	One who has a dog
One who has a fish	One who has brown eyes	FREE	One who has a cat	One who has children
One who loves Jesus	One you go to school with	One with Brown hair	One who is wearing blue	One who owns a red car

Now that you've gotten to know a few of your neighbors, try to...

- 1) Pick one you can invite to church
- 2) Find one you can make cookies for
- 3) Choose one you can smile at
- 4) Find one you can pray for