

Family Studies on Deacons - Servants and Workers

- Recommended Hymn: Make Me a Servant
- **Mark 9:35** - “**And He sat down and called the twelve. And He said to them, ‘If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.’”**
 - In what ways does Jesus expect His followers to be last of all? In what ways does He expect His followers to be servants of others?
 - Who are some examples that our family knows of who are humble and servants of others? How can we encourage them and be more like them?
 - What does this passage have to do with the roles of deacons in the church? How does it affect our understanding of them?
 - **Today we will pray together for...** thankfulness for Christ’s example of service and other examples that we have been blessed to know.
- Recommended Hymn: Follow Me
- **John 12:26** - “**If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.**”
 - Where else does Jesus talk about people following Him? What does this look like on a daily basis?
 - In what ways does the Father honor those who follow Jesus in this life? In what ways can they look forward to being honored further?
 - What does this verse have to do with the roles of deacons in the church? How do they demonstrate the truth of this verse?
 - **Today we will pray together for...** the deacons of our congregation to be devoted to following Christ, and for our family to have the same devotion.
- Recommended Hymn: To the Work!
- **Acts 6:3** “**Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.”**
 - Read this paragraph (Acts 6:1-7) together. Why were these men being appointed to this office? What does this tell us about the roles of deacons in the church today?
 - Who are the deacons at our congregation? What do they do? How can we help them to succeed in their areas of work?
 - **Today we will pray together for...** the motivation of faithful men to serve, and for their works and service of the church to succeed.

- Recommended Hymn: Hear O Israel
- **Ephesians 3:7 - “Of this Gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of His power.”**
 - What is grace? Where else does the New Testament talk about grace? What is the relationship between grace and Paul’s calling as a minister?
 - What does it mean to be a minister? How is this related to the roles of deacons in the church? How is it related to our family’s role in the church?
 - In what ways has God’s power worked in our lives? What should we do as a result of this power working in our lives?
 - **Today we will pray together for...** thankfulness for God’s gift of grace, and for opportunities to serve others according to His gift of grace.

- Recommended Hymn: Faith of Our Fathers!
- **Philippians 1:1 - “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons[.]”**
 - What is a saint? What is required to become a saint? How does this affect our understanding of who this letter is written to?
 - What are the overseers of the church at Philippi? Does our congregation have overseers today? Who are they, and what do they do?
 - What is the significance of Paul listing the overseers and deacons together here? How are those who fulfill these roles supposed to work together? What is the end goal of their efforts?
 - **Today we will pray together for...** the leaders of our congregation to be strong in the faith and hold to the truth of the New Testament.

- Recommended Hymn: I Will Never Be the Same Again
- **1 Timothy 3:13 - “For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”**
 - Read this paragraph (1 Timothy 3:8-13) together. Do these qualifications describe the deacons at our congregation? How should our answer to this question affect our participation in the works of the church?
 - How does service as a deacon increase one’s confidence in the faith? How can service increase our own confidence in the faith?
 - How can our family get more involved in the work of the church? What can we do starting today to serve other people more purposefully?
 - **Today we will pray together for...** the confidence that comes with service, and for awareness of opportunities to serve in the name of Christ.