

212 Chapter 6 God's Revelation Through the Church

**Acts 6:1-6**

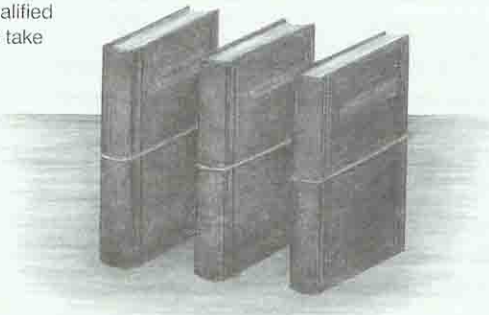
16. What method was used to choose and ordain seven men to care for the widows? \_\_\_\_\_  
The apostles told the believers to choose qualified men from among themselves. After the church chose the men, the apostles prayed and laid their hands upon them.
17. What qualifications guided the believers in their choice? \_\_\_\_\_  
The men were to be of honest report and full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.

**Acts 13:1-3**

18. How did the church at Antioch recognize God's call for Barnabas and Saul? \_\_\_\_\_  
As the church fasted and prayed, the Holy Spirit gave them that understanding.

**Acts 1:16-26**

Judas Iscariot ended his own life after his terrible deed of betraying Christ. While the eleven apostles and other believers waited in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit, they came to realize that the Old Testament had foretold Judas's fall and the need for another man to fill his place. Out of the 120 believers, they appointed two qualified brethren. Since only one apostle was needed to take Judas's place, they used the lot to determine God's choice between the two brethren. This ordination serves as a good example for the church in discovering the Lord's will when more than one qualified brother is nominated by the church.



The Biblical use of the lot is not a matter of chance among true Christians. Rather, it reminds us that Jesus Christ, the Lord of the church, chooses the leaders. He always was and always will be the director of all such affairs. Unbelievers reject this method of choosing leaders because they want to retain control of the final choice. But true followers of Jesus want Him to choose their leaders. If the whole congregation agrees on whom God is calling, the lot is not needed. The unified voice of a spiritual church is clear evidence of God's call.

19. Why was it necessary for the apostles to give the qualifications in Acts 1:21, 22 if God had already chosen a leader? (Sample answer) God begins to reveal whom He has chosen as the church prayerfully considers the qualifications for the position. As the church seeks to discern God's will, it is responsible to consider only men who meet the qualifications.

We read nothing in the New Testament of professional clergymen—men who made preaching and pastoring their means of livelihood. The world has many religions and religious advocates, along with many seminaries to teach and train leaders. However, the false teachings taught at these training institutions have destroyed the faith of many sincere men. God still calls and enables common fishermen, farmers, and laborers to be leaders of His flock. Faithfulness and obedience to God and His Word are more important than natural ability.

- Every leader has some weak points. Ideally, a leader should be a perfect man, but only Christ reaches that standard. As leaders endeavor to help others, they are often painfully aware of their own need of being perfected in Christ. Like all believers, they need to learn to turn to God for help in overcoming their weaknesses.
- Matthew 23 records Jesus' scathing rebuke to the religious leaders of His time. However, before He rebuked them, He taught His disciples the importance of obedience even to evil leaders. He said, "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not" (Matthew 23:3). A serious follower of Jesus

can do what is right even under a failing leadership. Encourage the students to rise above the tendency to become suspicious, critical, and cynical of leaders.