

Note: The growing community of believers in Jerusalem is forced to begin structuring itself into an organization. Jesus had personally chosen and appointed the twelve Apostles. They now create the first ordained order in the Christian assembly, the *deaconate*. It will be years before presbyters and bishops are identified as ordained.

Chapter 6

1. Diverse language groups in the growing Christian community in Jerusalem began to experience friction. What was the main cause of the friction? (Acts 6:1-3)
2. How did the Apostles prefer to spend their time? (Acts 6:2-5)
3. A new level of leadership was created by the Apostles.
 - a. How and by whom were they chosen? (Acts 6:3)
 - b. Why did the Apostles lay their hands upon the seven new leaders? (Numbers 27:15-23)
 - c. What might the new leaders' titles be today and in the early church?
4. List some of the qualities and characteristics of Stephen. (Acts 6:8-11)
5. What were the charges against Stephen when he was brought before the Sanhedrin? (Acts 6:11-15)
6. List the many ways Stephen acted more like an apostle than a deacon. (Acts 6:8-10)

Chapter 7

7. *Challenge:* Since the Sanhedrin had no need to hear the entire saga of Hebrew history, starting with the call of Abraham, why do you think Stephen would use Jewish history to present his defense? (Acts 7:1-3)
8. During the trial of Stephen:
 - a. Of what crime was Stephen accused? (Acts 6:11)
 - b. Why was he stoned? (Leviticus 24:16)
 - c. As Stephen was being stoned, how did he respond? (Acts 7:55-57)
9. Stephen tells two stories significant in Jewish salvation history. (Acts 7:9-22)
 - a. How is the story of Joseph and his brothers significant to Stephen's defense? (Acts 7:9-22)
 - b. How is the story of Moses significant to Stephen's defense? (Acts 7:17-22)
10. Who was the young man watching the stoning as witnesses threw down their coats at his feet? (Acts 7:58)