

# Dundonald Youth: Acts

Week 8: God's Word Works!

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**Open in prayer:** Ask God to be with you, speaking to you through his word, helping you to trust Jesus Christ.

Opening Question: What do you want to do when you're an adult? **Why?** *It's that classic: "what do you want to be when you grow up?" In some ways the question "Why?" is more interesting... (and it's okay if you don't know what you want to do or why!)*

Today we read about different ways to serve God, and think about the *priority* of serving people the bread of life, and not just bread to stay alive...

**Read** the first three words of **Acts 6:1** - in what days?

(Wider context: what's been going on in Acts so far?)

(Narrow context: what does Acts 5:42 say?)

'In those days'... we're just after Jesus has died, risen, and ascended to heaven, and the early Christian church is growing as the apostles witness in the power of the Spirit the good news about Jesus. There's persecution from religious leaders, and they've been told to stop teaching, but they're still going home to home, and in public, proclaiming that Jesus is risen, the promised Messiah, the Lord and Saviour!

What happened 'in those days'? (Read Acts 6:1) Why was this such a big issue? The number of disciples was increasing, but there was a problem with the Greek speaking Jewish widows being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. **BIG ISSUE!** A) they could starve B) the church was supposed to love its members, but this group was being let down C) they were proclaiming that the gospel was good news for **ALL NATIONS** (all people, everywhere) but this situation undermined that message?!

**Read Acts 6:2-4.**

What do the apostles say **ISNT** the solution? Why?

So what **IS** the solution that they suggest?

The solution **ISNT** for the apostles to neglect their teaching ministry to make sure the food distribution is done properly and the Greek speaking widows get their food - because Jesus has told them to teach / witness / make disciples and if no one does that then no one gets the **BREAD OF LIFE** (Jesus) - which is an **EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM!** So they get other people involved and delegate the food situation to them, and they can carry on praying and teaching the gospel.

**Read Acts 6:5-6.**

Imagine you'd been there. What did you see? How did you feel? Why was this a good solution? 'What did you see' is another way of asking 'what happened'? The apostles gathered all the disciples, got them to choose 7 qualified men (presumably because men did the buying of food & necessary supplies in that culture), and laid hands on them to publicly appoint them and pray for them. It's all done publicly, transparently, and NB. The 7 names = Greek names = well able to represent the Greek speaking widows! Surely you'd feel heard, involved, pleased that the widows would no longer be overlooked and situation well-handled and resolved - and the apostles still free to continue praying and teaching!

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What was the outcome? (Read Acts 6:7)

The word of God spread and more and more people (including some of those Jewish leaders!) became followers of Jesus and joined the church. The message wasn't undermined, the preachers weren't tied up, the word continued to spread!

### NOW LISTEN TO THE TALK - Youth Bible Series: Acts 8

Imagine you're a few years older and leaving home... how would you think about these scenarios / what would you do? How does today's passage speak in to these things?

- You're checking out a church in your new city, and they absolutely love helping the hungry and housing the homeless, but they're not very interested in teaching God's Word... Remember the **PRIORITY** of God's Word. We need bread to live, but we need the bread of life (Jesus!) to live forever!! We come to church to be nourished by God's word, with God's people, but it sounds like this 'church' might actually be more like a charity (which is still a good thing!!!! It's just not a church...) Action: keep looking for a bible teaching church!
- You're checking out a church in your new city, and they claim to love God's Word and prioritise bible teaching, but you can see that not all people / types of people are loved / welcome... This sounds like the situation in Acts 6 today - which was quickly addressed! If this 'church' has been going like this for a long time, something is seriously wrong; do they actually believe / live according to God's Word? No church is perfect, and they might be trying to change, so be gracious, but you may well decide to look for a different church

^ I'm assuming you're not going to be able to quickly influence the condition / trajectory of these hypothetical churches, rather you're looking for a healthy one to join, and therefore thinking carefully about what you can see.

- You're thinking about your future career / work / life, and what to do, and why... As an individual we want to love God and love others as much as we can - especially with the gospel! As part of the body of Christ, we want to help maximise ministry - especially New Creation ministry! So we'll want to think carefully about what we do (and why!). There are loads and loads and loads of things Christians can do / be, and God has made us all different, with different gifts and opportunities - who has God made me? What can I do? How can I serve in the body? Don't take a marketing job for a gambling company just because it pays well... think about what / why!

**Pray:** Praise God for the bible, and pray that we'd always value ministry of the word of God

**Listen/Sing:** The Power of His Word - Co-Mission (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM6boUO2Ni4>)

**Meditate:** Mark 1:38