

Session 1
**A Deacon Ministry That Works Is
Biblically Based**

Objective: At the end of this session you will be able to answer two basic questions:

1. What do deacons do from a biblical perspective?
2. How do we do it?

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Teaching Guide:

1. If we are to understand the role of pastors, deacons, or any other functioning role in a New Testament church, we must...
 - ___ A. Read a church organization hand book
 - ___ B. Study church history
 - ___ C. Ask the oldest living deacon what he thinks
 - ___ D. Study the scriptures
2. Applied theology is _____
3. The book of _____ is the basis for Dr. Pedersen's study of deacon ministry.
4. The seven men in Acts 6 were prototypes because...
 - ___ A. This was the first time deacons were mentioned in the Bible.
 - ___ B. The seven were set up as a Board of Directors for funding a relief program for the early church.
 - ___ C. The function of the office appears although the word deacon does not appear.
5. By the time we get to Acts 6, the church at Jerusalem numbered
 - ___ A. 3,000
 - ___ B. 5,000
 - ___ C. 25,000
6. _____ is perhaps the greatest evidence of sickness and internal illness within the body.
7. The real problem with the church at Jerusalem was not a lack of bread on the table, it was a _____ in the fellowship.
8. The first fifteen years of Dr. Pedersen's ministry was characterized as a _____ type of ministry.

9. The word “diakonos” literally means
- A. Absolute ruler
 - B. Master Teacher
 - C. Through dust
 - D. Faith guide
10. God intends His church to be a _____ body.
11. One of the most revolutionary things happening in churches today is that deacons get involved in _____.
12. The Bible says the deacon is a ...
- A. Servant
 - B. Laborer
 - C. Minister
 - D. All of the above

“Across the years we have moved away from what the Scripture teaches as being the basic purpose for the deacon and his basic work in the church.

Group Learning Guide:

1. To what degree is our church a multiplying body?

Indicate your evaluation on the following scale by circling the number you feel appropriate.

-5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5
Declining Maintaining Multiplying

List three reasons for your evaluations:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. Is our church internalizing or externalizing?

From the following list check descriptive words or phrases that characterize our church.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. cold | <input type="checkbox"/> I. warm fellowship | <input type="checkbox"/> P. confused |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. cordial | <input type="checkbox"/> J. sweet spirit | <input type="checkbox"/> Q. stagnant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. formal | <input type="checkbox"/> K. lukewarm | <input type="checkbox"/> R. reaching people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> L. focused on | <input type="checkbox"/> S. hotbed of hatred |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. indifferent | <input type="checkbox"/> growth | <input type="checkbox"/> T. ministering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F. rumor mill | <input type="checkbox"/> M. servant | <input type="checkbox"/> U. the happening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. directed | <input type="checkbox"/> N. vaguely uneasy | <input type="checkbox"/> place |
| <input type="checkbox"/> H. holding our own | <input type="checkbox"/> O. vibrant | |

3. Murmuring is a primary evidence of sickness and internal illness within a church. Read the following situation about murmuring.

Calvary Baptist Church has experienced three years of unprecedented growth. Excitement is running high. A sweet spirit has pervaded all areas of church life.

Recently, however, some senior adults have become disgruntled at the emphasis that is being placed on the youth ministry. They are beginning to talk about the size of the youth budget, the emphasis placed on trips, and the numerous “commercials” in the church newsletter. This murmuring has reached the youth, their parents, and the youth Sunday School workers. Some of the senior adults feel absolutely neglected and cast aside. Now they feel indignant and talk is escalating.

You, along with your fellow deacons, recognize that the first real problem in some time is upon the church. If the situation is allowed to continue, what are some possible results?

As deacons, how should you deal with this situation to insure the continued health and growth of the church?

4. Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	agree					disagree						
A. Deacons are ministers.	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
B. The pastor and staff should do all the ministry of the church.	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
C. Deaconship is an office, a position of honor.	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
D. Deacons are assistants to the pastor who perform ministry to the congregation.	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
E. In large part deacon ministry has moved away from the biblical model.	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
F. Deacons are as responsible for the health and well-being of a church as the pastor and staff.	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
G. In some ways church members might be more responsive to ministry from a deacon than from a pastor.	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

5. Paul Brent is a thirty-five year old pastor. An excellent pulpiter, he recently was called to pastor a large growing church near Houston. His past churches were small in comparison. His ministry has been characterized as a “brush-fire” approach to problem solving.

After a year at the larger church, Paul has noticed—as has the congregation—that his study and preparation time has been shortened. His spiritual vitality has waned. A lack of joy is found in his work. It is obvious that the “brush-fire” approach doesn’t work in the larger church.

You are a deacon and a personal manager at a large company. You have noticed the decline in Pastor Brent’s ministry. As a deacon and a concerned friend, how can you constructively help your pastor at this critical time in his ministry?

What steps can the deacons take to help their pastor?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The church that is multiplying and growing as a healthy body must employ deacons in ministry.