

"Deacons"

1. Except for a possible partial description of the work of deacons in Acts 6:1–7, the Bible says little on the subject. When you think of deacons, what kind of work do you envision?

How do the stories of Stephen (Acts 6 & 7) and Philip (Acts 8) expand the common perception of "deacon work"?

Read 1 Timothy 3:13. How do Stephen's and Philip's stories shed light on the truth taught in Paul's statement?

2. Read 1 Timothy 3:8–12. Which descriptions in this passage should be expected in *any* Christian? Which descriptions do you think go beyond what should be expected of other Christians?

Why do you think Paul chose the particular characteristics that he included in this portrait?

3. In 1 Timothy 3:12, the 2011 New International Version translates the opening part of the verse as "faithful to his wife." Translated more woodenly, Paul writes that a deacon must be a "one-woman man." How is this phrase translated in the Bible you have before you now? What is your own understanding of this phrase? Why do you think Paul specified this for deacons?
4. What is the most positive impact you've seen a deacon have on a church? On a community?

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?