

APRIL – “Staff”

***Acts chapter six tells about the time in the early church when extra hands were needed for ministry that was expanding.***

OPENING PRAYER. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. Wise Counselor, give us wisdom to know the work of ministry in our midst and ability to respond to the increasing needs of those we have been blessed to serve. Amen

READ: Acts 1:21-26

<sup>21</sup> Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection. <sup>23</sup> So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” <sup>26</sup> Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Church That Works, Part 14 “Staff”

“Multiple staffing did not become a well-known phenomenon until the last century when the growing complexity of the Information Age made it nearly impossible for a single pastor to deal with all the issues and needs of people. As the secular world moved toward specialization and sub specialization, the church responded with specialization to effectively minister to people’s complex needs.” (p. 212)

ASK

1. To add or to not add staff, that is the question? Would you? Should you?
2. Who are the paid staff members of your congregation? Who are the unpaid staff members who share the work of the ministry?
3. What do you look for in potential new staff persons? Who does the searching?

DISCUSS

1. McIntosh speaks of the 1:150 ratio of full-time professional staff positions to average attendance at worship (p. 218). By adding staff a congregation also can expect an increase in worship attendance. Why would extra staff increase church attendance?
2. Most congregations cannot afford an extra staff member. Might your congregation consider linking the services of a staff member with another sister congregation?
3. Does your congregation “yoke” with a sister congregation for special programs? For example, rather than having two or three congregations do all the preparation and work to hold a Vacation Bible School separately, why not put together a team of VBS workers and offer the same program in each congregation at different times during the summer? Imagine how the exposure to the Gospel might increase?

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA

Ask God to bless your meeting time today

MAY’S DEVOTION. “Services“. Who will the leader be?