

# **7-DAY PRAYER GUIDE FOR DEACONS**

## • **DAY 1**

- Lord, I lift our current Eastwood active deacons to You. May they walk worthy of respect with sincere hearts. Keep them from indulgence and greed. Help them keep hold of the truth. May they keep short accounts with You so that their conscience is clear. Bless their households with peace and respect. Fill them with Your Spirit and let them operate in wisdom as they carry out their responsibilities. (*1 Tim. 3:8-9, 12; Acts 6:3*)

## • **DAY 2**

- Key Scripture: Acts 6:1-3 *“Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.”*

In Acts 6, the Apostles faced an important decision: guard the ministry of the Word or tend to the needs of the congregation. While each of these responsibilities is vital, the Apostles would be hard-pressed to do both. The apostles recognized the scope of the problem and realized that they needed to solve it without sacrificing their own valuable time and priorities (MacArthur). The twelve chose a strategic division of labor, allowing the Word to be proclaimed and people to be cared for. Seven men (v. 3) were chosen to be the first to serve in what would become a long-standing, whole new office—Deacon. The word “deacon” means servant. Deacons meet tangible needs, promote church unity, and assist elders by caring for the needs of the church.

At Eastwood, our deacons serve in a wide variety of functions. These men faithfully meet the diverse needs of the body of Christ, whether it be visiting the sick, performing facility and grounds work, handling financial matters, distributing needed resources, or responding to benevolence requests. Their service is often out of the public eye; yet, their role is vital to the life and health of the church. We simply could not function as a church without their remarkable service. Next time you see a deacon, thank or encourage that servant either in word or deed.

**PRAYER:** Father, thank you for these faithful, obedient men who so humbly and sacrificially serve our body. Give them eyes to see the needs of our congregation, humility in their service, and hearts to love the people You love.

## • **DAY 3**

- Take time to voice a prayer for wisdom and guidance. Pray that God would place before your mind Godly candidates who might fit the qualifications for a biblical deacon at Eastwood Baptist Church. Begin to write these names down and continue to pray over them.

## • **DAY 4**

- If our leaders are weak-kneed and fearful, the church body is also weak. Pray for our current active deacons to be strong and courageous in the Lord, only fearing God, and no other. If they are strong, the body of Christ will see this witness and be encouraged. Pray that God would continue to show you faithful men to nominate.
  - *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.* - Joshua 1:9

## • **DAY 5**

- We should always be praying for our leaders to bring glory and honor to God in everything they accomplish. It keeps our deacons humble and wise. In addition, when a deacon always acknowledges that God is the ultimate authority, he will continue to seek His guidance and direction, not his own. Pray that God would keep all of our deacons and deacon candidates humble before the Lord. The goal of their service is not their glory, but God's.
  - *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* – 1 Corinthians 10:31

## • **DAY 6**

- Most churches have at least one member that tends to complain or stir up trouble. While it's easy to dismiss these people as complainers, our deacons and leaders still need the patience to listen and respond as appropriate in a godly manner. Let's pray for our current and potential candidates to have an abundance of patience as they hear and meet the needs of the congregation on a weekly basis.
  - *Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.* – Proverbs 16:32

## • **DAY 7**

- Spend time given one more chance for thoughtful prayer over the names you have been considering nominating for deacon. Ask ... do they meet the biblical qualifications. Go back and re-read the scriptural qualifications. Has this person already been serving without the title of deacon? Are they a servant?

## **BEGINNING JANUARY 29 YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE DEACON NOMINATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

- **ONLINE:** Visit [www.eastwoodbaptist.com/deacon](http://www.eastwoodbaptist.com/deacon)
- **PRINT:** Please fill out a print ballot at the Connection Center in the atrium.