JANUARY 27, 2019 – LEADERSHIP: DEACONS

During the months of January and February we will looking at what the Bible says about the Church, and what it means to be the church together at West Park. The Church is the dearest place on earth to God, and we hope your love for the church will grow as we learn how to be a Church by the Book.

READ
John 13:1-17, Acts 6:1-7, and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 a few times this week.

EXAMINE
• While the term “deacon” is not used in the John 13 story, the Lord Jesus does use the term “servant” or “slave” in verse 16. The root word for that term is the same word where we get “deacon.” How does Jesus display and describe the ministry of a deacon?
• What problem did the early church face in Acts 6:1-7?
• How do the church leaders and the church members work together to address the problem?
• What type of men does the church look for?
• What was the result of the deacons’ ministry to the early church?
• By the time of the Apostle Paul, deacons had become an important office in the church. Compare the qualifications for deacons (1 Tim. 3:8-13) with the qualifications for elders (1 Tim. 3:1-7). How are they similar? In what way do the qualifications differ?

APPLY
• Does your understanding of deacons match up with the description of deacons in the passages you’ve studied above? In what ways do deacons in a local church sometimes do things that are not biblically required of deacons?
• How have you been blessed by the ministry of West Park’s deacons? Do you know the many ways they serve our church body?
• Set a goal this month to contact a deacon at our church to share your appreciation for his ministry. Perhaps you could email him, send a card to someone in particular, or personally thank one face-to-face.

PRAY
Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us godly leaders for our church. This week we thank you for our Deacons. They serve us at great personal cost to their time and resources. Thank you for their behind-the-scenes service to our church body. Bless them abundantly in their ministry here at West Park. Help us all to learn from them and grow in our love for others by serving them in your name. Amen.