



## The Diaconate: Servant-Leadership of Deacons

6 Sessions | Spring 2024 | 7:30–8:30 pm | Waterbrooke Church, Lower Level  
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### Course Description

An in-depth investigation of the diaconate, the ministerial office of deacons in the local church. This introductory study explores the biblical and practical calling, purpose, and role of deacons.

### Course Objectives

- 1) **Knowledge objective:** Gain familiarity with the calling, qualifications, and role of deacons.
- 2) **Attitude objective:** Cultivate a servant’s heart with a greater love for Christ and his church.
- 3) **Skill objective:** Critically assess the biblical portrait of deacons to serve Christ’s church faithfully, assist the elders effectively, and advance Christ’s mission through mercy fruitfully.

### Suggested Reading

Keller, Timothy J. *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*. 2nd ed. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1997.

Smethurst, Matt. *Deacons: How They Serve and Strengthen the Church*. 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.

Witham, Alan, et al. *The Deacon Ministry Handbook: A Practical Guide for Servant Leadership*. Brentwood, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2023.

### Course Schedule

Session Date	Topic	Suggested Reading
03/06/24	Session 1: The Birth & Mission of Deacons	Smethurst, 41–57
03/13/24	Session 2: The Qualifications of Deacons	Smethurst, 59–71
03/20/24	Session 3: The Role of Deacons	Smethurst, 73–94
03/27/24—No Session	**Small Group Leader Meeting**	**No Reading**
04/03/24	Session 4: The Mercy Ministry of Deacons	Keller, chs. 1, 3, 5
04/10/24—No Session	**Missions Week**	**No Reading**
04/17/24	Session 5: The Selection & Ordination of Deacons	Witham, 24–44
04/24/24—No Session	**Small Group Leader Meeting**	**No Reading**
05/01/24	Session 6: Practical Tools for Deacons	Witham, chs. 5, 7

## Recommended Reading

- Allison, Gregg R. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church*. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Anyabwile, Thabiti M. *Finding Faithful Elders and Deacons*. 9 Marks. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Corbett, Steve, and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor—and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2012.
- Dever, Mark E. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. 3rd ed. 9Marks. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.
- . *Understanding Church Leadership*. 9Marks: Church Basics. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2016.
- Dunlop, Jamie. *Love the Ones Who Drive You Crazy: Eight Truths for Pursuing Unity in Your Church*. 9Marks. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2023.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Repr., Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Johnson, Andy. *Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global*. 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.
- Keller, Timothy J. *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*. New York, NY: Dutton, 2010.
- . *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*. 2nd ed. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1997.
- Lupton, Robert D. *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (and How to Reverse It)*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2012.
- McConnell, Mez, and Mike McKinley. *Church in Hard Places: How the Local Church Brings Life to the Poor and Needy*. 9Marks. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016.
- Miller, C. John. Edited by Barbara Miller Juliani. *The Heart of a Servant Leader: Letters from Jack Miller*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2004.
- Smethurst, Matt. *Deacons: How they Serve and Strengthen the Church*. 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.
- Stiles, J. Mac. *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*. 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
- Strauch, Alexander. *If You Bite and Devour One Another*. Repr., Littleton, CO: Lewis and Roth Publishers, 2012.
- . *Leading with Love*. Repr., Littleton, CO: Lewis and Roth Publishers, 2013.
- . *Paul's Vision for the Deacons: Assisting the Elders with the Care of God's Church*. Littleton, CO: Lewis and Roth Publishers, 2017.
- . *The 15 Descriptions of Love: Applied to All Christian Leaders and Teachers*. Littleton, CO: Lewis and Roth Publishers, 2018.
- . *The New Testament Deacon: The Church's Minister of Mercy*. Littleton, CO: Lewis and Roth Publishers, 1992.
- Witham, Alan, et al. *The Deacon Ministry Handbook: A Practical Guide for Servant Leadership*. Brentwood, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2023.