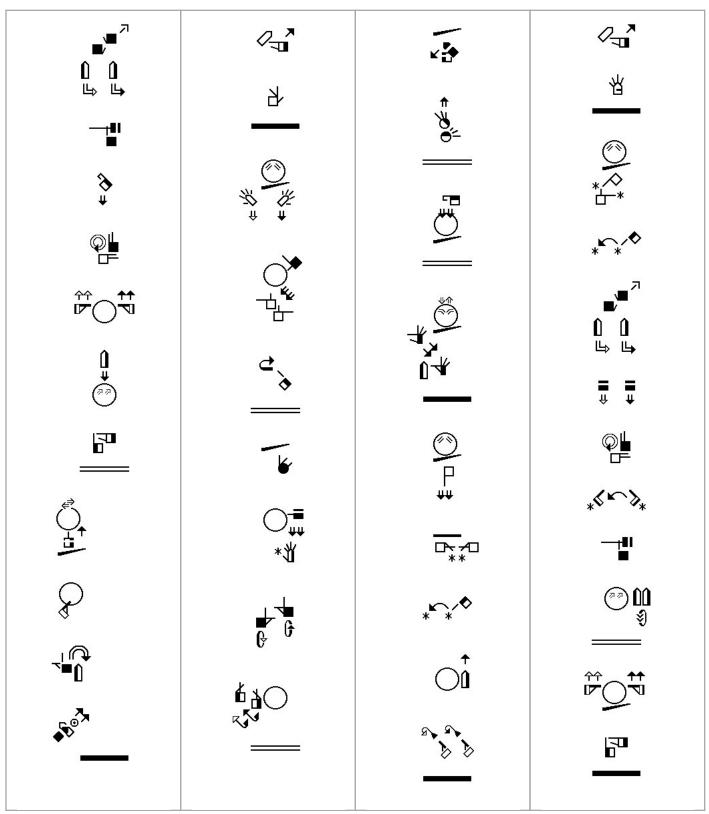
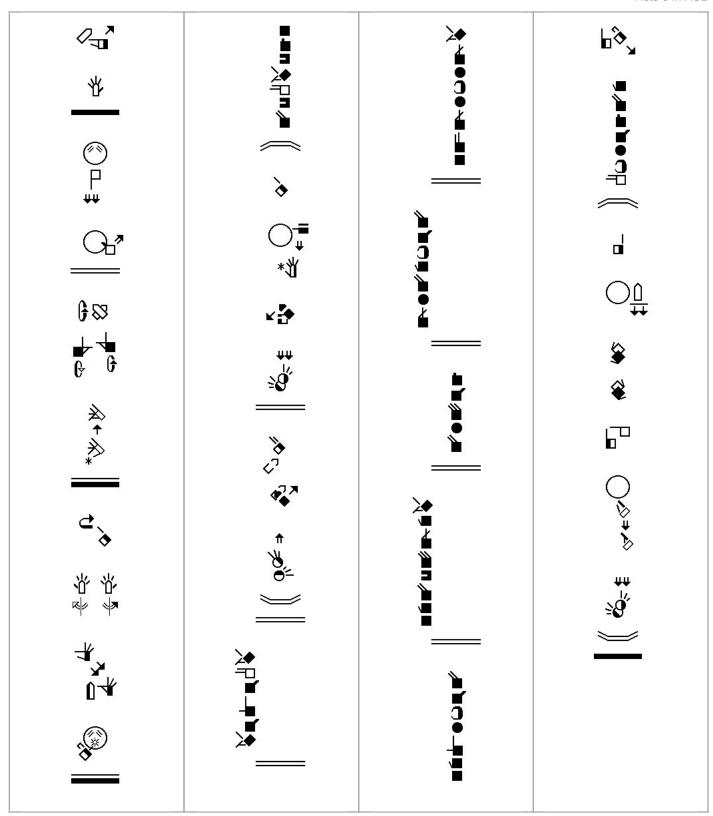


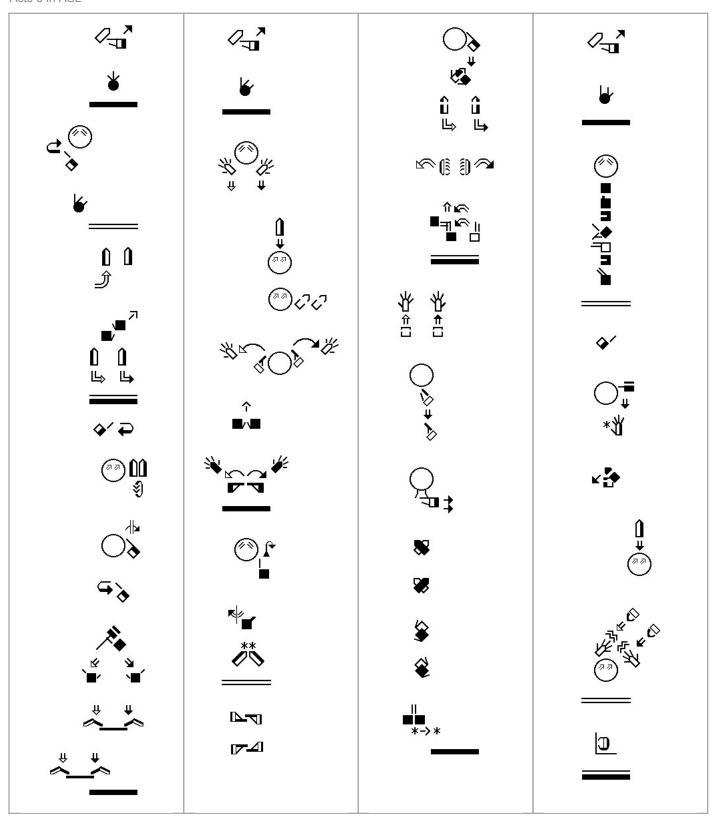
Chapter 6. But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. Verse 2. So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We NLT



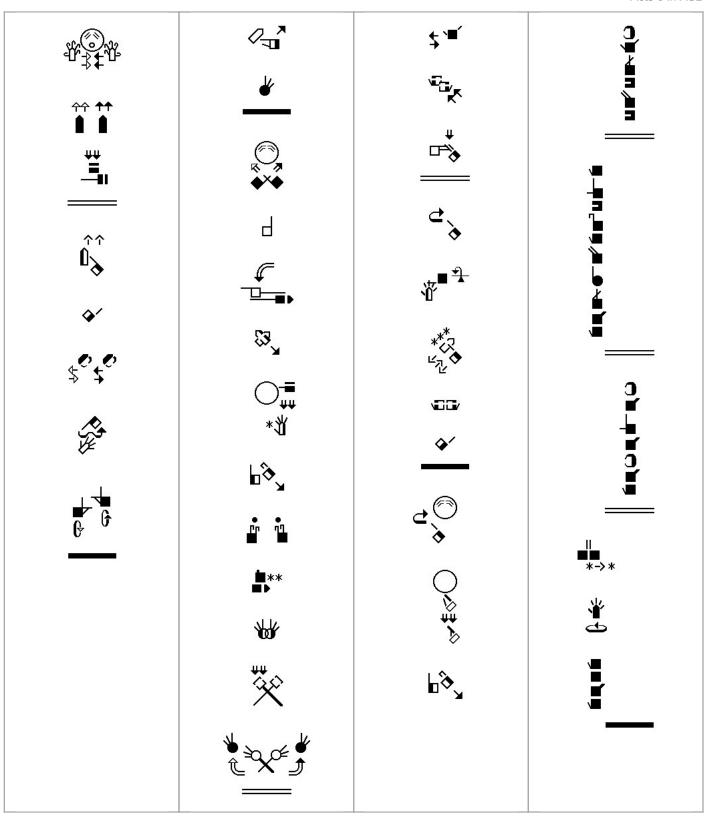
apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. Verse 3. And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. Verse 4. Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."



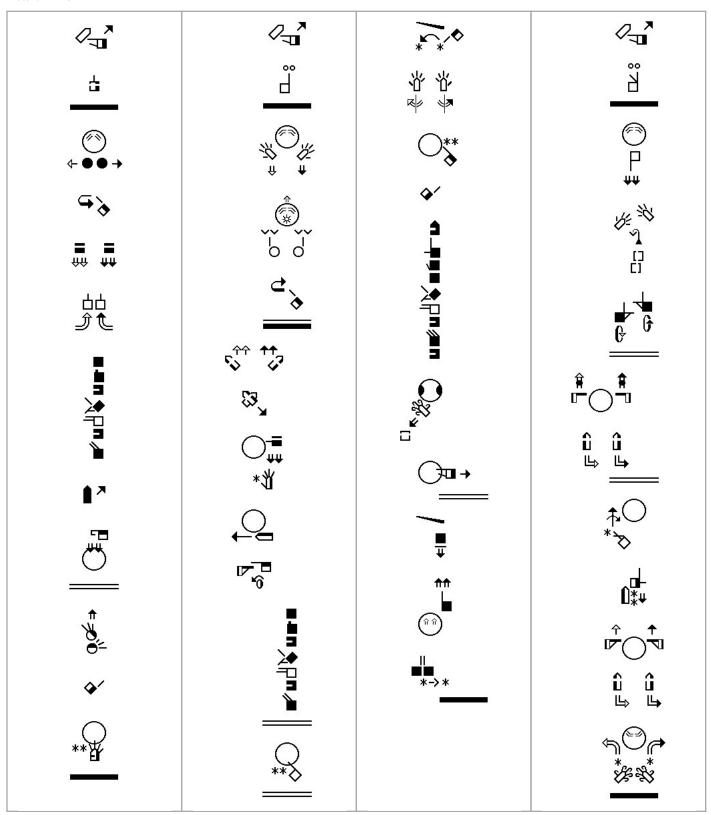
Verse 5. Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith).



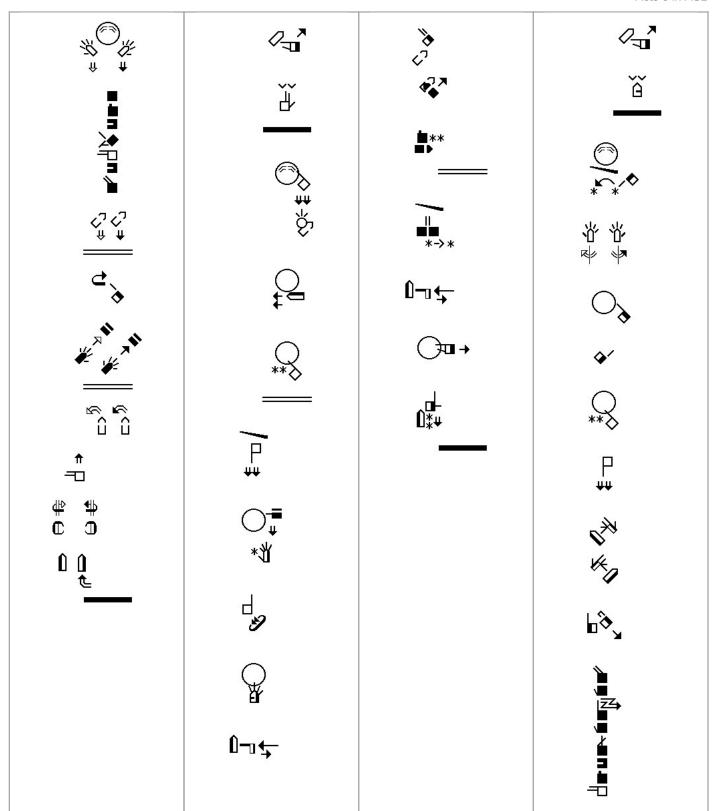
Verse 6. These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. Verse 7. So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. Verse 8. Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power,



performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. Verse 9. But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. NLT



Verse 10. None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. Verse 11. So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, "We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God." Verse 12. This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law.



So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council. Verse 13. The lying witnesses said, "This man is always speaking against the holy Temple and against the law of Moses. Verse 14. We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth NLT

