



Acts - The Birth of the Church - Growing Pains

Acts 6: 1-7

Discussion Questions for April 12th, 2026

1. In general, it seems like there are two kinds of people: those that enjoy change and those that don't. Which are you? How does this play itself out in your life?
2. **Main Idea: A Growing Church Excels in Both the Word and Work of Ministry.** Have someone in the group summarize the situation presented in Acts 6:1-7. What is a Hellenist? Why were some widows being neglected?
3. **Point #1: The Setting of Ministry.** Do you agree that our local church is similar to the church of Acts 6? In what ways? If it's hard to see the growth happening in our church, ask someone with long experience to share what the church was like in 2018. 2005? 1980??
4. **Point #2: The Problem of Ministry.** Both the Word of God and the work of ministry are critical. Besides the lack of food distribution to those in need, what are symptoms of a church that neglects the work of ministry? What are symptoms of a church that neglects the Word?
5. **Point #3: The Solution of Ministry.** Deacons are "invented" in this passage of Scripture. Pastor Shaen mentioned that we probably need more deacons for our growing church. What are deacons currently doing? What could they be doing if we designated more of them? (Hint: Officially we have 8 deacons, 4 that handle stewardship and 4 that handle facilities).
6. We often skim over names in Bible passages, but take a closer look at the seven men chosen. Notice anything similar about those names? See any Joshuas or James? Nope, that's because they are all Greek names, not Hebrew names. Can you infer why they might have chosen Greek believers for this assignment?

7. Why did the new deacons need to be "full of the Spirit"? Wouldn't wisdom be enough, since their role was practical rather than spiritual?
8. **Point #4: The Outcome of Ministry.** So, they fixed a logistics problem and the number of believers "multiplied greatly." Why do you think Luke chooses to wrap up the story in this manner? How can we learn from this in our church today?
9. Are you ready for Pastor Shaen and the elders to make some changes?
10. Pray that our church grows and changes as the Spirit of the Lord directs. Pray for our own hearts, that we don't get too attached to anything that God wants to change or remove. May we excel in both the Word and the work of ministry. Amen.
11. **Note for Small Group Leaders:** If you want to look like a genius in front of your group, do a little research on why Greeks are called Hellenists. It's pretty interesting.