

The Week in the Word

Acts Worksheet #10: Choosing Men to Share the Workload

Passage: Acts 6:1-7

Sermon Dates: March 8,9

Study Period: March 3-8

Link Group Meetings: March 10-14

With church growth comes more opportunity for ministry, as well as more challenges and demands. Here in this passage, the early church faces some growing pains, and the apostles leave us with some good examples to follow when we find ourselves growing as a church.

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1. If you had to spend next Saturday morning either leading a Bible study, praying with other Christians, or serving breakfast to a group of widows, which activity would you choose? Why?
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2. Read Acts 6:1-7. The early Christian church had continued the custom of the Jewish synagogues, in collecting and distributing food among the needy. Describe the problem that arises, including who complained, who was blamed, for what, etc. (v.1)
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3. Why weren't the apostles (the "twelve") willing to do this themselves? (v.2) Were they right in making this statement? Why or why not?
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4. What did they suggest the people should do? (v.3)
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5. Where were these men to be found? (6:3)
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6. What are the qualifications for this "ordinary" job (6:3)? Why do you think these would be necessary qualifications?

7. What risks were the apostles taking in delegating these responsibilities?

8. How did the congregation react to the apostles' suggestion? (6:5)

9. Who did the choosing here? What role did the apostles play in their appointment? (6:5-6)

10. How did the church fare after the apostles delegated the serving of food to others? (6:7)

11. From what special group were the converts being won? (6:7)

12. In what ways do the people of our church differ from one another?

13. What benefits and challenges arise from having different kinds of people in our church?

14. Drawing from this example in Acts 6, how can we learn to channel our complaints into solutions?

15. What are the areas/groups in our church that might need attention?