

**3. In every church,
strategic organization
of different PEOPLE
in different MINISTRIES
can set the stage
for MULTIPLICATION.**



Growing Pains

Acts 6:1-7

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Acts 6:1-7 reminds us that the church has been flawed, broken and imperfect from the very beginning. Here we're reminded of 4 realities that are true of the early church, our church and every local church . . .

**4. In every church,
prayer and the
ministry of the Word
is what MAKES
and MULTIPLIES disciples.**

**1. In every church,
there will be
COMPLAINTS,
CONFLICTS
and CRISIS.**

**2. In every church,
there will be a
tension between
CARING for the FLOCK
and REACHING the LOST.**



Growing Pains

Growth Group Guide & Questions
for the week of February 26, 2017

Connecting & Caring Together (about 20 min.)

As we were reminded in the message this week, “not feeling connected” is the #1 reason people leave our church. What personally makes you “feel connected”? Because this is why Growth Groups exist, make sure you make “feeling connected” a priority in your group.

Grappling with God’s Word Together (about 20 - 30 min.)

1. How did you “come under” God’s Word in the message this week?
Share one personal takeaway from the message.
2. Read Acts 6:1-7 together as a group. If “opposition/persecution from without” was one early threat to the MULTIPLY mission (Acts 3 and 5:12-42), and “corruption from within” (Acts 5:1-11) was another threat, how would you describe this third threat to the MULTIPLY mission in 6:1-7?
3. The Word is referenced 3 times in these 7 verses. Can you find them? What is the argument/point being made in the text between the 3 references?

4. Would you describe yourself as a “church idealist”, a “church pessimist” or a “church realist”? Why? Why is being a “church realist” helpful?

5. Do you tend to be a “care for the flock” person or a “reach the lost” person? Why? In your estimation, is Grace more of a “care for the flock” church or a “reach the lost” church? Why are both necessary, but hard to pull off well? How do we move toward a Biblical balance as individuals and as a church?

6. In Acts 6:1-7, do the Apostles refuse to wait tables because the job is beneath them or because that ministry is of lesser importance? If not, why do they refuse to wait tables? How do they deal with the crisis/complaint instead and what does verse 7 tell us was the result? What does this teach us about callings, delegation, structure, strategy and systems in the local church?

Praying Together (about 20 min.)

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem . . . —Act 6:7

As we “care for the flock” by praying for one another, let’s also “reach the lost” by praying for Acts 6:7 to become a reality here on the Central Coast through Grace Central Coast.