

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

A Life-Group guide for sermon discussion, personal reflection, and next steps



SWAT | WHEN STRATEGY MUST SHIFT | DAN SMITH | OCTOBER 11, 2026

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As disciples, we're called not just to be informed but to be transformed into people who look more like Jesus—in our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. This guide helps you apply what we're learning at New Life Church to your weekly rhythms. Use it to engage in daily Bible reading, have meaningful conversations with your group, and take clear next steps in following Jesus.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

In Acts 6, the early church was growing, but that growth exposed a real problem: some widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. The issue was not ignored, minimized, or treated as a sign of failure. It became a moment for Spirit-led strategy to shift.

The apostles protected their calling to prayer and the ministry of the Word while empowering others who were full of the Spirit and wisdom. Care was entrusted to qualified servants, responsibility was shared, and the work of ministry became healthier.

When the church shared responsibility, ministry was no longer hindered. The Word of God spread, disciples increased, and even priests became obedient to the faith. Growth creates new needs, but Spirit-filled people help carry the mission forward.

GROWTH

PROBLEMS NEED SOLUTIONS

Do not ignore what growth exposes.

EMPOWER

SPIRIT AND WISDOM

Entrust care to qualified servants.

SHARE

UNHINDERED MINISTRY

Own responsibility so the Word spreads.

RESOURCES

- [Sunday's Sermon](#)
- [Table Talk Podcast](#)
- [Download the New Life Church app](#)

KEY SCRIPTURE

"So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly..."
ACTS 6:7

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use these questions to move from strategy shifts to shared responsibility.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROWTH EXPOSES NEEDS

- **Acts 6:1** says the number of disciples was increasing, but some widows were being overlooked. What does this teach us about the relationship between growth and problems?
- Where are you tempted to see a problem as failure instead of an invitation for prayer, wisdom, and a needed strategy shift?

PROTECT THE MISSION

- **Acts 6:2-4** shows the apostles protecting prayer and the ministry of the Word while still taking the need seriously. Why does focus matter in ministry?
- What is one area where a person, group, or team might need to stop doing everything and start sharing responsibility more wisely?

EMPOWER SPIRIT-FILLED SERVANTS

- **Acts 6:3** says the church needed people known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. Why does both spiritual maturity and practical wisdom matter when caring for people?
- **Acts 6:5-6** shows the church choosing, praying over, and commissioning servants. Where might God be asking you to step into ownership rather than simply noticing a need?

UNHINDERED MINISTRY

- **Acts 6:7** says the Word of God spread after responsibility was shared. How can shared ownership help the mission move forward?
- What is one responsibility you can carry this week that would help New Life know God, find freedom, discover purpose, or make a difference?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

This week, ask God where strategy needs to shift in your life, group, or ministry. To **Know God**, read Acts 6:1-7 and pray for wisdom. To **Find Freedom**, turn complaint into honest conversation and prayer. To **Discover Purpose**, identify one need you may be equipped to help carry. To **Make a Difference**, take ownership of one practical responsibility so someone else can be cared for and the mission can move forward.

PRAYER GUIDE

Father, thank You for growing Your Church and for caring about people who are overlooked. Give us humility to see problems clearly, wisdom to respond well, and courage to share responsibility. Fill us with Your Spirit so we can serve faithfully, protect the mission, and help the Word of God spread. In Jesus' name, amen.

CLOSING THOUGHT

"So the word of God spread..." - Acts 6:7

Growth is a gift, but it also reveals what needs attention. Acts 6 reminds us that Spirit-filled strategy does not compete with care; it strengthens care and protects the mission. When every believer owns their part, ministry is unhindered and the gospel keeps moving forward.