

**The Church is Born: The First Church Fight**  
Growth Group Discussion Guide  
Acts 6:1-7

**Intro questions**

- Have you ever been surprised by a conflict? Please share an example you're comfortable with us knowing.
- How do you feel when a conflict in a relationship or group first emerges?
- Before we dive in, take a moment to pray, asking for God's Spirit to lead your discussion.

**1. Read Acts 6:1-7, then discuss the following.**

- Describe the state of the Jerusalem church at the outset of this passage.
- In your own words, what was the essence of the conflict that emerged here?
- What do you think of the apostles' response in v. 2? If you had been there, how might you have reacted?
- In v. 3, the apostles name the two criteria for the people who will be put in charge of the food ministry. What are they? Practically, how do you think we can recognize these two traits in people?
- How would you describe the state of the Jerusalem church at the end of this passage? What, specifically, made the difference?

**2. On Sunday, Pastor Josh argued that our church must embrace the following principles if we are to be successful in our mission together. Discuss, using the questions below.**

- **A multi-cultural church is worth fighting for.**
  - To what degree do you agree or disagree with this statement?
  - To what degree do you consider our church to be multi-cultural?
  - Do you feel that your cultural background is valued in our church? Why or why not? How could we do better?
  - Why might it be difficult to practice this value at times?
  - What significance do you see in the fact that all the names in v. 5 are Greek names?
- **Whatever else happens, the preaching of the gospel must be given priority.**
  - How do you see this principle in the passage?
  - Why is this value of such importance?
  - What kinds of good things have distracted us, or could distract us, from this central value?
  - How does prayer related to this practice? (See v. 4).
  - How has this practice impacted your own faith development?

- **Our growth requires many people using their gifts in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
    - What might have happened if the apostles had insisted on managing the food distribution themselves?
    - Josh said that you are (and every other Christian is) called to “ministry.” How do you feel about this claim?
    - What particular spiritual gift do you feel that God has given you for the building up of our church? To what degree are you using it? Are there areas of ministry that you would like to try out?
  - **Conflict will come. How we handle conflict will derail or elevate our effectiveness as a church.**
    - Why do you think conflict is inevitable, even in churches?
    - How could conflict derail us from effectiveness in our mission?
    - How can conflict possibly elevate us in our effectiveness as a church?
    - What specific encouragement or challenge do you—and we collectively—need to take from this principle at present?
3. **Wrap-up:** How do you feel that God is speaking to you, or our group, through this passage? Is there any particular action step that you, or we, need to take?
4. **Prayer:** Spend some time praying with regard to the specific things that have come up. Allow group members to share any other needs before you pray.