



# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 11-11-18

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 24-25; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 195; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 70-74.

## Getting Started:

1. If you had to spend next Saturday morning leading a Bible study, praying with other Christians, or serving breakfast to a group of widows, which activity would you choose? Why?

## Digging Deeper:

Read Acts 6:1-7. Here we find the Church dealing with a problem brought on by growth and diversity. "As the community grows and becomes more complex, it restructures to meet fresh needs, especially by choosing qualified people closest to a problem to help resolve it" (Darrell Bock, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Acts, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007, p. 255-6).

2. The scene reflects how tension was resolved during the early growth of an ethnically diverse church.
  - a. What complaint did the Grecian Jews make (6:1)? How can we learn to channel complaints into solutions?
  - b. Using a commentary or Study Bible, what cultural differences existed between the Grecian and Hebraic Jews mentioned in 6:1? How might these differences have threatened the close-knit community experienced

earlier (2:42-47)?

- c. What different ethnic or cultural groups are there in your church? How can differences among believers cause friction? What benefits and challenges arise from having different kinds of people in your church?
3. One of the challenges of making applications from narrative literature like the book of Acts is discerning whether what is recorded is intended as merely descriptive or also prescriptive. Consider that distinction as you answer the following questions.
    - a. What qualities did the apostles require in the chosen seven (6:3)? How is this significant for us?
    - b. Through what process were the seven men selected and appointed (6:3,6)? Is this a model for us? How, or why not?
    - c. In what other ways are the problem and its solution in 6:1-7 a model for us? (For example, should a church still set aside some members to care for widows and other needy members? What are some good ways of dealing with ethnic or other divisions in a church?)