

ACTS 6:1-7

30 OCTOBER 2022

ICE BREAKER: Describe something you are good at and something you are terrible at.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 1-2) The early Church faced a **crisis** that put its extraordinary growth at risk. The Church comprised of Grecian Jews, Greek-speaking Jews living outside of Palestine, and Hebraic Jews, Jews within Palestine who spoke both Aramaic and Greek. The Grecian Jews complained their widows were being overlooked in the daily food distribution, whereas the Hebraic widows were not. The crisis had the potential to divide the early Church in half.

When the Church brought the complaint to the Apostles, the Apostles did not focus on the Church's crisis, but on the Church's **purpose** and **priorities**. As leaders, they stated, *"It would **not be right** for us to **neglect the ministry of the word of God** in order to wait on tables."* Despite the importance of feeding the poor, the Apostles stated they could not do so at the cost of the study of God's Word and prayer.

1. How are you **tempted** to place others' **needs over** the priority of **studying the Word and prayer**?

(Read verses 3-4) **Hearing the complaints** of neglect from the Grecian Jews against the Hebraic Jews, the Apostles could have apologized and promised to work harder. Rather they **refused to do everything**—to provide leadership in the study of God's word, prayer, and to lead the distribution of food to the needy. Instead, they called the Church to look for others to meet this need.

As D.L. Moody said, "It is better to put ten men to work than to try to do the work of ten men." Often when others complain to us, we take it personally and feel we must take on the extra work or fill the need, when actually God is trying to do a new work around you, which may not involve you.

2. What has happened when you have **taken on added work**, which rightfully **belonged to others**?

(Read verses 5-6) The apostles demonstrated important leadership principles. Threatened by divisive complaints from within the church, they did not take on the extra work themselves. They called the Church to search out other leaders to fill this need. Not only did they receive these leaders into new positions, they gave them their authority to fulfill this ministry. *"They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and **laid their hands on them.**"*

When we come into a new position, we need **both opportunity** and **authority**. Without opportunity, we cannot do the job. Without authority, we have no power to carry it out.

3. In a **new position** or **role**, how have you ever been given **opportunity**, but no real **authority**?

(Read verses 3-6) As a Church, faith in God is paramount. However, having **faith in others** is also important. Notice when the Apostles sought for new leaders to fill the need of feeding the poor that the Apostles did not choose these leaders.

Rather, they called on the Church to choose them. The Apostles apparently did not influence the Church's selection of these leaders. They simply waited for the Church's selections, **trusting in them** during this crisis.

4. How has God brought someone in your life that now has **put his or her faith** and **trust in you**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Jesus with this week or invite to Celebration.)
