

Acts 6:1-7

¹In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

²So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

³Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Series: God's Story: Finding our Place in His Unfolding Plan

Nov 19, 2017: Organized Church

Growing Pains

Can you think of some essential services that go unnoticed? Have you felt unappreciated, or noticed someone who is?

What are your experiences with church leadership & organization? Does it seem like a necessary evil? Can it be a good thing?

The Call: Stay Focused (1-4)

1 – After growth comes conflict – have you seen this to be true? How can we relate to the early church's dispute?

2-4 – What concern do the apostles have? What danger is there in them doing everything? What is their solution?

Service: Spiritual & Practical (5-7)

2-5 – What is the job description? What qualifications were needed? Why did they require spiritual qualities for this practical work?

5 – What stands out about the people who were chosen?

6 – Who were involved in the selection of leaders?

7 – What was the result of this step in the church's journey? See Acts 7-8 for more.

Growing to Maturity

After a seed is sown, sprouts, and takes root, it is alive and well. But until it grows strong branches, it won't bear much fruit. How does this compare to the early church's story?

How can structure be helpful in supporting fruitful ministry?

What ministries do you appreciate in our church?

Try letting the people know how much you appreciate them.

What needs do you see in our church?

Has God equipped and called you to contribute?

Try bringing up the topic with another person & see what God does.