



Week 9: Growing Pains

In Acts 6:1–7, the early church faces a moment where rapid growth exposes the limits of its systems. Rather than compromising the mission or message, the apostles adapt their methods. By empowering more leaders, they protect unity, and stay focused on the mission. Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something. Shared leadership is the sign of a healthy church and keeps the mission moving forward.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Acts 6:1-7.** The oversight of the Hellenistic widows created tension that could have led to division. What are some modern examples of secondary or tertiary issues that can divide churches and distract from their mission? What stands out to you about how the apostles handled this tension to protect unity?
2. Where have you seen growth in your own life (spiritually, relationally, or professionally) require change? Why do you think change often feels harder in the church than in other areas of life? How can we handle change with a posture of grace and humility?
3. Why was it important that the apostles empowered others instead of trying to do everything themselves? How does this passage reshape the way you think about leadership and serving?
4. The seven were chosen based on character, not just competence. Why do you think qualities like reputation, wisdom, and being full of the Spirit matter so much—even for practical ministry?
5. **Read Ephesians 4:11-16.** How are you currently using your gifts to help the church grow and remove obstacles so more people can find and follow Jesus? If you're not, what role do you sense God leading you into and what steps are you going to take to get involved?