

THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

Acts 6:1-2

January 7, 2024

GROWING PAINS

1

At the end of chapter five, the apostles were facing increasing persecution, but continued to rejoice and “did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus” (5:42). How does this attitude and practice lead to the ever-increasing number of disciples (6:1)?

2

As the number of disciples in the church grows, so does complexity, concerns, and even complaints. What was the concern of the Hellenists (Greek-speaking Jews)? How does this reveal the general makeup of the gathering and also the kinds of tasks that were being handled among the disciples at this time?

3

Widow ministry is mentioned in a few other places in the New Testament (1 Tim 5:3-16; James 1:27). How does this point to the circumstances of the first century and what role does the church take in “widow ministry” today?

4

The total number of believers at this time may have been as high as 10,000. However, to deal with the concerns that have been raised, the apostles “summoned the full number of disciples” (6:2) Why was this an issue that required the entire “congregation”?

5

The apostles declare that “it is not right” for them to give up their pastoral labor to perform the practical labor needed in the church. What does the phrase “it is not right” indicate? Is this about preference? Apostolic superiority? Or is this about moral “oughtness”?

6

Concerns and complaints have been a part of church life from the beginning. How does this text provide a model for handling problems in the church?

7

Does this passage provide an example for how Baptist churches can practice both congregationalism and pastoral leadership? How so?

8

Do we see the same diversity of needs in the church today? Do we also have a need for various people performing various kinds of ministry and service?

