

**Life Group Discussion Guide - December 9th 2018**  
**Growing Pains**

\* In the sermon this week we discovered that the early church in Acts that sprang forth in action after Pentecost, began to see incredible favor, blessing & growth. It also started to see the problems & challenges that success brings. Lets take a deeper look at these growing pains.

Would you agree that in life, when we achieve the success, advancement or growth we were hoping for & working toward, that it usually brings problems or difficulties we weren't really anticipating?

**Q?** Can you give an example of this in your own life? **Discuss...**\_\_\_\_\_

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**In chapters 1 through 6 of acts we see 3 ways Satan tries to stop this church on fire with the love & power of Christ.**

**#1. PERSECUTION from the religious leaders who killed Jesus**

**#2. CORRUPTION from within the body of believers through hypocrisy**

**Read Acts 5:1-11 aloud in your group**

**Q?** Does this passage strike you as strange? What might have been God's purpose in removing this couple in the early stages of the Spirit filled church?

**Discuss...** \_\_\_\_\_

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**#3. DIVISION**

**Read Acts 6:1-7 aloud in your group ...**

**Remember** - The Hellenists were greek speaking Jews who lived in foreign territories and adopted greek culture. This division between the Hebrew Jews who spoke Aramaic & read from the Hebrew texts, brought about a rivalry between the 2 groups. They even worshiped in their own synagogues until the Spirit of God called all believers into one group "The Church".

**\* A diverse church glorifies God in a very special way. When different races, financial classes, cultures and age groups can come together as one, it reflects the heart of Christ.**

**Q?** Though this is a beautiful thing, what are the messy challenges of creating and sustaining such diversity? What does Jesus church face in this regard today? **Discuss:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q? What are some important things every believer should think, feel & do personally to help create a church that does not cripple it self with division? Discuss...** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q?** How did the church leaders “The Apostles” handle this division in the passage you just read? **Discuss:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q?** What do you think of the statement these church leaders made when they said - ***“It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables....choose seven men from among you ...We will turn this responsibility over to them 4and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”*** - Does this sound arrogant? What is the wisdom & divine strategy here? How does this apply to our church context? **Discuss...** \_\_\_\_\_

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**The church is to be a Spirit led organic organism which embraces organization as needed to help further the impact of the gospel**

**Q?** Talk about the balance between being an organism & organization. How what are the dangers of having one without the other in a church context? **Discuss..** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q?** If every believer has a role to play in the ministry of Christ & His church, what do you feel your role is or should be? **Discuss.....**

**Close by praying as the Spirit leads you**