impacting our culture





NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What was one tough situation in your life that ended up being a blessing in disguise?

BACKGROUND

There were two kinds of Jews in the early church: Hebraic Jews and Grecian (or Hellenized) Jews. Hebraic Jews were mostly from Judea and spoke Aramaic, a form of Hebrew. The Grecian Jews came from the outlying provinces beyond Israel. They spoke Greek because their native lands had been conquered centuries earlier by Alexander the Great. There was a language and cultural barrier between the two groups, so it is not surprising that a problem arose.

Luke previously told us, [a] II the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need (Acts 2:44-45). As part of this compassionate ministry, the church maintained a fund to purchase food for needy widows in the growing congregation. The Greek speaking Christians complained that the distribution to the widows was unfair. The Hebraic widows received help but the Grecian widows were being overlooked. The oversight was probably unintentional, but it became a source of dissension.

The early church was learning to divide responsibilities and duties according to the distribution of spiritual gifts. So, the apostles gave the congregation the responsibility to elect seven men with gifts of service. They also listed the qualifications for these servants, who would be known as deacons. The deacons were to be men of good reputation, and have a good witness in the congregation. *"Brothers," the apostles said, "choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom"* (Acts 6:3). Their reputations for godliness and wisdom should be well known to all the church, so that they would be trusted by all.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Acts 6:6

And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

READ: Acts 6:1-7



HEAD LEVEL: What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- 1. A problem arose in Acts 6:1. How did the apostles suggest that the body of Christian believers should deal with this problem?
- 2. Which individuals were chosen by the entire Christian community to handle this area of ministry? What were their required qualifications?
- 3. What were three results for the church when the problem was resolved (Acts 6:7)?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

• Those who carried on this ministry would later be known as "deacons." Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13. How did the apostle Paul describe those who were to serve in this area?



HEART LEVEL: What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.

- 1. What does it mean to be "called" to serve? How can you confirm that you are being rightly called to a job or place of serving in ministry?
- 2. How are people brought, or called, into serving ministries today? How are they evaluated to see if they are right for the job?
- 3. What is the significance of *praying and laying their hands on them* (v. 6 & Numbers 27:18-20)? Is this still pertinent in our contemporary churches?



1. When a problem or complaint arises within your immediate fellowship community, what are some good, constructive ways to address the problem? What actions might be destructive?

2. Is it necessary to be personally invited to be involved in a particular ministry? What is a simple way to explore some areas of fellowship or ministry at Northshore?



"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)

Next Week's Life Group: Rise: Impacting Our Culture (Acts 8:9-25)