



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

APRIL 24, 2016 - JOSH REASONER

Growing Pains

Acts 6

THINK & SHARE

 Questions to get your group talking

What is the one thing that most attracted you to Calvary? (If you come from a bad church experience, let's keep the name out of the conversation.)

What do you think are some markers of health for a church like Calvary that is experiencing growth?

STUDY & DISCUSS

 Questions that invite you to dig deeper into the week's material & your own life

Listen as someone reads Acts 6:1-15. Share observations/questions about the text with your group.

A. Given that it takes time to get settled into a new church, what is it that moves people from being spectators at church to being active participants? What was the tipping point for you?

B. Read Matthew 28:18-20. This is known as the Great Commission and the focus is not on making converts, but rather on making disciples or followers of Jesus. Why do you think most people resign themselves to letting "the professionals" do the work of making more and deeper disciples? When does a person graduate, so to speak, from only growing as a disciple to also participating in disciple-making?

C. Like any healthy family or community, the church needs people to step in and do certain things to ensure that the gospel can spread, disciple-making can happen, and needs can be met. But a lot of churches, including Calvary, are short on people in its ministries. Why do you think that is? What holds people back from serving in the church?

"We in America have been socialized to believe that our own dreams, goals, and personal fulfillment ought to take precedence over the well-being of any group—our church or our family, for example—to which we belong. The immediate needs of the individual are more important than the long-term health of the group. So we leave and withdraw, rather than stay and grow up, when the going gets rough in the church or in the home." Joseph Hellerman





D. When we think about ministering to or serving others in a broad sense, there are 3 meaningful ways that we can care for each other: 1) the ministry of listening, 2) the ministry of actively helping meet someone's need, and 3) the ministry of helping shoulder the burden of a brother or sister in Christ. Which of these ministries seems to best fit you? Which feels like an inconvenience? How do these ministries reflect the gospel in everyday life?

E. In the New Testament, the group took priority over the individual. The church grew and adapted together with the gospel of Christ at the core of their organization...well, family would be a better word. In many ways, they formed a surrogate family. With that image in mind, how does a church that is growing maintain solidarity on the essentials of the gospel? What is the responsibility of the individual—you—in seeing that happen?

PRAY & COMMIT Questions for your breakout prayer time and challenges for the rest of your week

A. This week spend some time praying that God will give you an opportunity to enter into one of the three ministries in question D. When you see the chance, jump in and serve! Think of these interruptions into your life as holy interruptions from God.

B. How are you intentionally making disciples? Remember that this is a command directed toward everyone. What's your part in helping shape the depth of commitment to Christ in a person's life?

C. Take some time this week to thank God for what He's doing at Calvary. Pray for our leaders (elders, pastors, staff, volunteers), and thank the Lord for offering you a surrogate family here in Valparaiso. And pray that our Even More project and generosity initiative would be a means for God's kingdom to grow in and through our church!

FIND CALVARY CHURCH SERMONS IN PRINT, AUDIO, OR VIDEO THROUGH THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

@ calvaryweb.net click on Sermons

@ **App Store** search key: Calvary Church Valparaiso

@ **Miscellanies blog** <http://lionelyoung.squarespace.com>

@ **iTunes** search key: Calvary Church Sermons

© 2016 Calvary Church

For public use. No part of this document may be changed without the permission of Calvary Church.



Calvary Church

1325 Evans Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383 • www.calvaryweb.net