

Life Group Notes

Sunday 18th September 2022

Speaker: Matt Partridge

Title: Handling Seasons of Growth

Passage: Acts 6:1-7

The church in Jerusalem was growing. And as momentum in the church spiralled up, certain noticeable events took place. Reading Family Church is in a season of growth, and we might expect similar things to occur.

1. Seasons of Growth tend to come with challenges

The Hellenistic (Greek) Jews complained that their widows were being overlooked. This is an ethnic tension arising from growth in a complex local church environment. We want the church to grow, but growth is never straight forward, and challenges do come with growth.

2. Seasons of Growth require mature responses

The Twelve gathered all the believers together to discuss how to find a community solution to a community problem. This demanded maturity from all the believers, the ability to come together and engage non-defensively in a grown up conversation.

3. Seasons of growth and challenge draw more people into the action

The solution to the problem was to invite seven Greek men to take responsibility for this area of church life. There was now opportunity and space for more people to take responsibility, and to use their gifts and wisdom to serve the local church.

4. Seasons of growth tend to broaden cultural diversity.

The seven men chosen all have Greek names, and were from the Hellenistic community. In order to solve a tension arising from ethnic fault lines, men from the appropriate minority background were chosen to bring leadership into this area of church life.

5. Seasons of growth produce ongoing momentum

The word of God spread, the number of disciples increased, and there was a momentum from the Holy Spirit in the life of the local church.

Suggested Questions:

1. What stood out to you from this message, and why?
2. As we prepare for Jump Sunday on 9th October (Two morning meetings at 9am and 11:30am), which area of church life are you planning to serve in?
3. What creative ideas do you have about drawing more people into the action?
4. Have you experienced any pain or disappointment in church life over recent months? Are there any relational "friction burns" that need healing?
5. Pray together for this term, for the life of Reading Family Church in this season of growth.