



THOUGHTS FROM WEEKEND MESSAGE

- As we think about learning to live together in harmony, share with your friends in group a story or two of moving from the high of first impressions (i.e. with a significant other, friend, spouse, or in a job, class, or team) to the reality of living and doing life together in the months after.

Acts 6:1-7

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

- QUOTE from MESSAGE: "*Every innovation starts as a Problem.*" How do you think innovation begins? Does change in your life start as recognition of something lacking?
- Every human has a longing to be | **To be seen** | **To be known** | **To be heard** | **To be valued** | **To be needed** | **To be used**...which longing best describes where you are right now?
- Do you think of church or life group as something you go to because you need it or because it needs you? How does that change your attitude and perspective on church, your presence, ministry involvement, Life Groups, etc...?



QUESTIONS FROM WEEKDAY READING

WEEKLY QUESTIONS:

1. *What's something you noticed for the first time?*
2. *What questions did you have?*
3. *Was there anything that bothered you?*
4. *What did you learn about loving God?*
5. *What did you learn about loving others?*

Rebuke | Forgiveness | Grace

- Page 37-38 - Jesus tells three stories that all seem to have the same theme. How would you describe the purpose of the parables of the lost coin, lost sheep, and lost son? What does this teach us about God? How would you feel being one of the 99 or the older son and seeing the shepherd or Father?

Rebuking - On page 40, Jesus connects infractions against us with two responses: rebuking and forgiving. The word "rebuke" comes from the contraction of two Greek words, the first meaning "of" or "upon" and the second meaning "honor" or "value." Literally, the word means much more than just correcting someone, but valuing and honoring them enough to hold them to a higher standard. Since the Jews lived in a honor/shame culture, to admonish or rebuke someone was to respect them enough to call them out on how they've settled for less.

- How is Jesus' call to rebuke and forgive different than our natural inclination when we're hurt or offended?
- How can you rebuke/correct someone with gentleness and honor?

Paul's Conversion - On Page 71, we see Jesus demonstrate this process of rebuking sin, receiving repentance from Paul, forgiving extreme wrong (persecution of himself) and freely giving restorative grace by placing an extraordinary calling on Paul's life.

- In what ways have you received rebuke, grace, and forgiveness from other followers of Jesus?
- How is God using your story of grace from Jesus as a catalyst to share grace and forgiveness to others?