

## ***How Do We Balance the Mission and Ministry of Our Church?***

*Date: 2/28/16*

### **Read Together**

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.**

Scripture passage: Acts 6:1-7

We all have expectations for our church to meet certain needs; however, when those expectations are not met, disappointment and resentment can set in. Our hope is that our church will be a gathering where faith is inspired, hope is expressed, love is evidenced, values are forged, relationships are strengthened, and lives are transformed. But while we all have this shared expectation, this issue can be a point of conflict and division when it comes down to the question of, “*Whose needs are being met and how?*”

This is particularly evident when a church is growing. A growing church is an exciting church but as we all know, change causes friction. This week we will explore the why and how of balancing expectations with regard to the overall mission and ministry of the church. Discovering that each of us plays a significant role in service, unification, and cooperation within the church, we must always seek to put Christ at the center, keep the mission on our minds, and the ministry in our hearts.

### **Pray Together**

**Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise** God for His power, His authority, and His unchanging character.
- **Repent** from any divisive or uncooperative spirit that you may have in your heart.
- **Ask** the Holy Spirit to help you be a source of help for your church. Also ask Him to show you your place of service.
- **Yield** to the Spirit and give of yourself sacrificially.

### **Discuss Together**

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.**

- Discuss a time when you have been disappointed by an unmet expectation?
- How did you respond?

**Read Acts 6:1.**

- What was the overall problem that caused dissension in the First Church?
- What is the difference between identifying a problem so that positive action can be made and complaining about a problem?
- What practical steps can you take when you are identifying a problem to guard against grumbling and complaining?



Warren Baptist Church or Warren Grovetown



WarrenBaptist\_Augusta

- Read the following verses and discuss the severity of having a grumbling and complaining spirit. What should we do instead of grumbling and complaining?
  - Numbers 14:26-30
  - James 5:9-11
  - 1 Corinthians 10:9-11
  - Philippians 2:14-16
  - Philippians 4:4-7 and 4:11-13
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- What does grumbling and complaining do to a church?

### **Read Acts 6:2-7.**

- How did the disciples manage the problem that arose?
- Service became an important part of the mission and ministry of the First Church. Why is serving important?
- Do you have an area of service God has called you to within the Church? If not, will you pray and ask the Lord to show you your area of service so you can worship and honor the Lord in this way?
- What were the criteria for service in the First Church? (See Acts 6:3)
- Why is it important to be mission-driven and ministry-supported rather than the other way around?
- Which is more important in the ministry of the Church, quality or quantity? Why?
- With regard to the ministry of the Church, who is responsible? (See Ephesians 4:11-14)
- Are you sharing in the mission and ministry of the Church by pursuing unity? How are you partnering with your church to accomplish its mission and ministry?

### **Do Life Together**

**These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader's responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately, a disciple-maker.**

- What will you do this week to support the mission and ministry of your church?
- Will you commit to step up and serve in an area of need when a need arises?



Warren Baptist Church or Warren Grovetown



WarrenBaptist\_Augusta