

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

NOV. 16/17 - ACTS 6 - THE APOSTLES & THE SEVEN SERVANTS

## OPENING QUESTION

Think of the last time you went through serious change - think about moving or starting a new job or attending a new church. How did you respond to that change? What is your typical reaction to change in your life - are you an early, average or late adapter to change?

## READ TOGETHER

**Acts 6:1-7**

## BIG IDEA

**Change is a normal part of following Christ and being part of His body.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read verse 1. What was the cause of the rumblings of discontent in the church in Jerusalem? Have you felt these rumblings of discontent in your church experience?
2. Read verse 2. What specific steps did the 12 apostles take in response to the rumblings they heard? Can you think of an example in your church experience of this happening? What were the circumstances?
3. Read verses 3-6. List the specific things that took place or were said in the course of the meeting. What stands out to you? Did the meeting you thought of in question #2 contain these elements?
4. Read verse 7. What impact did the meeting the 12 apostles called have on the church in Jerusalem?
5. Is there a principle that stands out to you from this story about how we as a church should deal with changes?
6. Read Romans 8:28-29. How do these 2 verses relate to the place that change has in our lives? Do you see these verses becoming true of your life?
7. How does that principle apply specifically to your life as a follower of Christ and as a part of RockPointe Church?

## CHALLENGE

This week take time to journal what you see happening in your life and in our church related to change. This will mean looking for ways in which God is changing you and changing our church to become all that He intends us for us.

## PRAYER

At RockPointe, our leadership feels that God is up to something beautiful among us. He's changing us, calling us to go deeper, inviting us to live honest lives before Him and each other. In short, He is at work in us through His Holy Spirit. We need to embrace the Spirit's work and direction in us. Would you pray for us as a church that we would fully embrace His work in us?

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## NEXT STEP

For those of you desiring to go deeper in embracing the changes God wants to make in your life, you may want to consider reading a 500-year-old classic on this topic – *The Imitation of Christ*. Written by Thomas à Kempis in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, this book is said to be the most widely translated devotional book outside of the Bible. It is a handbook for living the spiritual life. While not the simplest of reads, *The Imitation of Christ* provides practical spiritual instructions on our interior worlds and how to be in the world, but not of it. You can access a variety of on-line versions at little or no cost at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/kempis/imitation.html>.

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