

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.

Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway! Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)

Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)

Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)

Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker Who is your favorite sitcom character (or other TV character)? Why them?

Read Acts 6:1-7

The Nature of Conflict

Question: Ian mentioned how both the people raising the problem, and the people addressing the problem were faithful. How was this true?

How have you seen conflict be addressed well? Poorly? How does that influence what you think of a person?

Question: When it comes to conflict, I tend to:

- Make too big a deal out of it, I'll make a mountain out of a molehill
- Bend over too easily, I let other people have their way and don't come up with a real solution
- Avoid it, I hope the problem will just go away or fix itself (even if I know it won't).
- Other: _____

What are some things that have proved helpful for you in navigating conflict?

The Opportunity of Conflict

Ian mentioned that conflict only comes about when a relationship is more than superficial, why might that be?

Do you have people who are happy to engage in proper conflict with you? Do you have others? How have those relationships benefitted you?

Are there ways you want that type of relationship to grow more? What are some steps that might help in that process?

The conflict in Acts 6:1-7 produces the diaconate, an entire office of the church dedicated to serving others.

Take a moment to consider those who do good work, though they get little thanks in return. What comes to mind? How might you show gratitude to them?

We also remember that conflict allows us to act more like Christ. What Christlike qualities in conflict stand out to you today?

- The humility to engage in conflict without becoming high-and-mighty
- The willingness to endure anger He didn't deserve
- The patience to work with people who get it wrong- again and again
- Other: _____

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
