

God's Dream Team

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Acts 6:1-7

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SETTING THE SCENE

- » Share a time with the group when you were part of a good (or great) team...a group of people working well together toward the same goal or mission. What made that team work so well together? Did it just happen naturally or did it take work before everyone jelled and worked together? What made it so special and powerful?
 - » As a group, brainstorm what you think it takes for a great team to work together. What are the key ingredients? Is it better to have people with similar interests and skills or for the people on the team to have different skills and personalities? What are the pros and cons of both models? What does it take to be a good member of a team? DO you work better individually or as a member of team? Explain your answer.
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THE STUDY

- » Share your overall thoughts and impressions from the sermon this morning. What things stand out to you? What did you learn? Where did God most challenge you? What questions do you still have about the passage or the sermon?
- » Read **ACTS 6:1-7** out loud as a group. What is your initial reaction to this story and how the events unfolded? What do we as a church need to learn from this passage? What specifically do you need to put into practice?
- » This is really the first time that the early church started to put some organizational structure together. What prompted the need for the change? How did they go about making the change? What were the primary goals, skills, and missions for each person involved? Is this how and why we make organizational changes in the church today? Explain your answer. What can we learn from and put into practice from this example?
- » Ray taught this morning that in order **TO BE EFFECTIVE, A TEAM MUST BE WILLING TO...**

1. MAKE GOOD ASSESSMENTS (1 Chronicles 12:32)

What were the two "competing" needs that the apostles were wrestling with as the church grew?

Which of these needs is "most important (physical versus spiritual needs)? Do we have the same conflicts today?

How do we typically handle it today and how does that compare with this example?

What characteristics did the apostles look for in picking those to take care of this ministry need? How does that compare with what we typically look for (or what we think we can and can't do personally)?

2. COLLABORATE AND SHARE ROLES (Ephesians 4:11-12)

What were the apostles called and gifted to do? What were they not called and gifted to do? Who stepped in when there was a need that the apostles couldn't fill?

What roles do you think Pinecrest has filled well? What roles have we not filled very well? Why do you think that is?

3. PLAY TO THEIR STRENGTHS (James 3:17)

What does it mean "to be full of the Spirit and wisdom"? Do you fall into that category? Why or why not? Do others in your group agree with your answer?

Why is it so important for each member of an organization to do what they do well? Do you think Pinecrest is following this model or are we falling into the 80/20 trap that many churches fall into? Explain your answer.

4. SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE (Acts 1:8)

What is the "bigger picture" of God's Kingdom...what's the ultimate goal of everything we do as Christ-followers?

How is Pinecrest doing at meeting both the physical and spiritual needs of those around us? How do we get a better balance?

- » Discuss as a group how well you think Pinecrest is doing at creating a team atmosphere and working together as a team. How can we do better? How can your LifeGroup become a better part of the team? How can you become a more productive member of the team?

APPLICATION

» On a scale of 1-10 (with ten being the best), how do you rate the teamwork here at *Pinecrest*?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- » What things do you do well and what are your passions and the things you think God has gifted you to do (think outside of the typical church box)? Brainstorm as a group how you can use the talents and passions God has given you to serve others in Jesus' name. Write some of the better ideas below:
- » What is God asking you to do at *Pinecrest* (or at work, or in your community) that you have been hesitant to do? Why have you been holding back? How can you get started? Discuss as a group.
- » How do you think you are filling your role in the body of Christ? What role are you playing? If you can't answer this question, why do you think that is? How can you start being a part of the "bigger picture"?
- » As a group, pray for one another and for *Pinecrest*, specifically that we will each fulfill our roles and continue to build God's Kingdom for His glory!
- » Share any unanswered questions or comments you have as a result of the group discussion or sermon...
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PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- » Next week we're taking on a big portion of Scripture: **ACTS 6:8-7:60**. To be better prepared, please read it ahead of time so that you know the entire story and all of the details behind Stephen's arrest, speech, and death.
- » As a group, talk about what you know (or what you think you know and have been taught) about Stephen. What is he most well known for? How did he get in "trouble" in the first place? How did God use his death?
- » As you read this passage this week, pay particular attention to Stephen's speech to the high priest and the council. What message was Stephen trying to convey? What did he use to make his point? Why do you think he used this particular theme? What can you learn from his message?
- » Bring any questions and thoughts you have about this passage with you on Sunday and to the next group discussion.
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CARING COMMUNITY

- » **SHARE** with the group how God has been speaking into your life or challenging you this past week (this may be as a result of the sermon or something in your personal journey). Is there anything from this week's LifeGroup discussion you need to work on?
- » Are there any **NEEDS** you have coming up in your life that the group can help you with (this may include spiritual needs, life needs, pretty much anything...)
- » **PRAY** for one another. Share your requests and praises with one another. Write them down here. If you commit to praying, please be sure you do it...