

Consider the *challenge* to gospel work



MTS Recruit 2023

**Peer Groups
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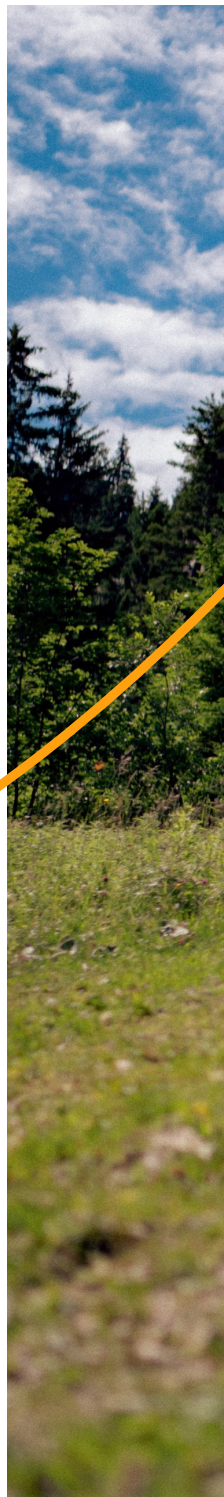
**MTS
Recruit**

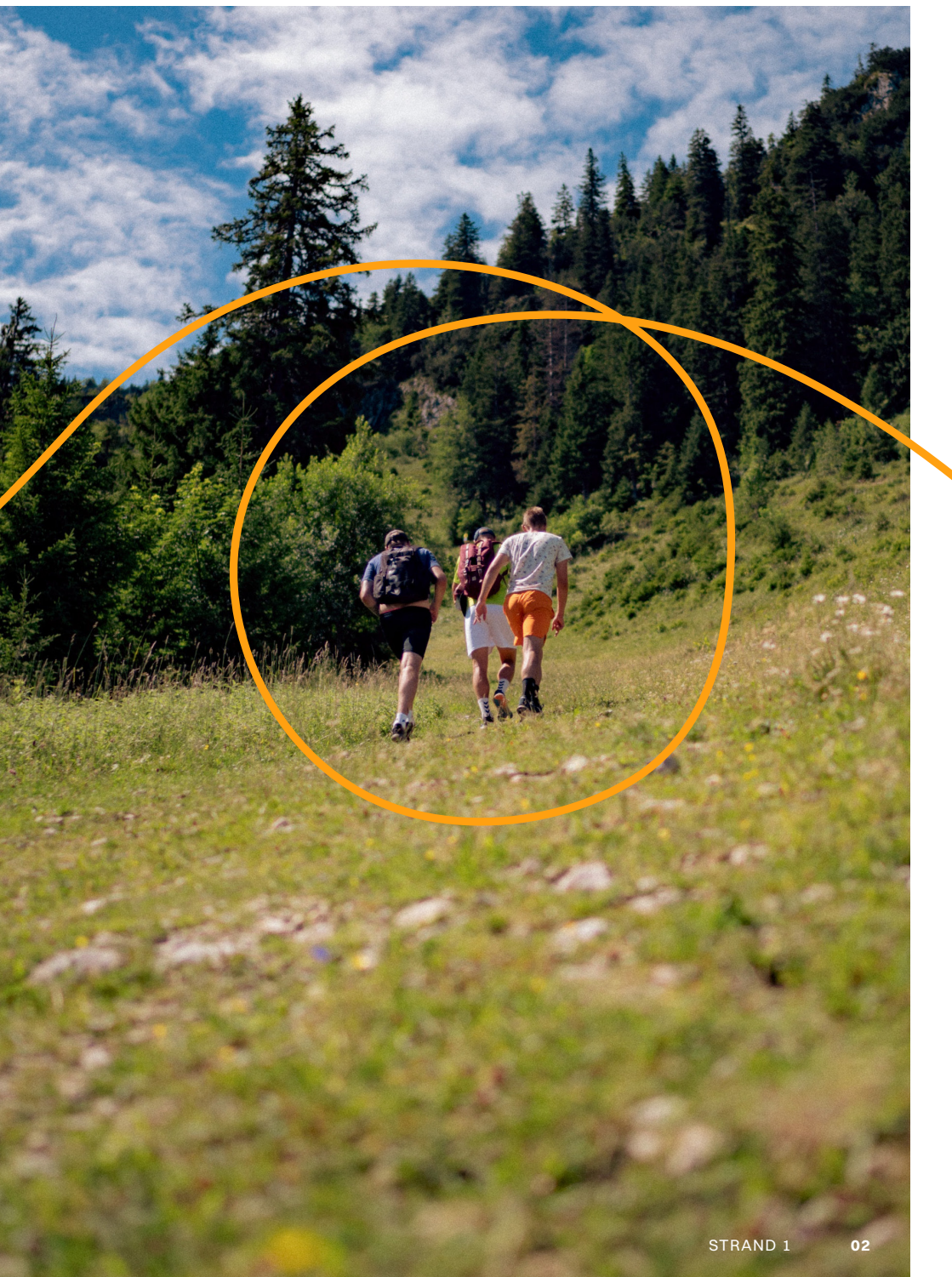
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**“For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for
good works.”**

Ephesians 2:10





Welcome

to MTS Recruit Peer Groups!

Peer Groups give you the chance to meet with other people who are at the same stage of thinking and discuss, “What will it look like for me to serve God with the rest of my life?”

During this time you’ll be led by an experienced Ministry Worker and MTS Apprentice to discuss the Bible, reflect on encouragements and challenges from our speakers, and consider decisions about ministry.

Sessions One & Two:

What is Gospel Ministry? (Part one)

The following content is to be split over Peer Group Sessions 1 and 2. Take your time getting to know everyone in the group. Make time for prayer at the end of Session 1 before morning tea, regardless of where you're up to in the content, and pray again at the end of Session 2.

A. Meeting Your Group

To get started, go around the group and share:

1. How did you become a Christian?
2. Where and how are you currently involved in ministry?
3. Is there a gospel minister (paid or unpaid) who has been particularly influential for you? How so?
4. Why did you decide to be a part of MTS Recruit?
5. What questions do you hope to explore at MTS Recruit? *(Collect these questions as a group and see if they've been addressed by the final peer group session)*

Pray for your time together.

B. Looking at God's Word: What is Gospel Ministry?

1. Write down a one-sentence definition of 'gospel ministry' and then share it with each other.

2. Read Mark 10:32-45 together. Briefly summarise what happens in this passage. Do you have any comments, questions, or first impressions?

3. How do verses 32-34 set the context for what follows?

4. Look at James and John's request (verse 37) and the ten's indignation (verse 41). What does this reveal about their hearts and their understanding of their roles? (Or their 'view of ministry' as we might say today?)

5. Jesus presents an upside-down concept of leadership, where 'great' Christian leaders are to be servants and slaves of all (verses 43-44). What might this look like practically for Christian leaders?

6. From the passage, what should motivate us to live our lives as servants in ministry?

C. Putting It All Together

1. In verse 42 Jesus explained the way that the 'great' Gentiles rule. What examples of this kind of leadership have you seen in the world?

2. Can you think of someone involved in gospel ministry (paid or unpaid) who is a 'servant'? What is it about their attitude and approach which makes them stand out to you?

3. Choose one of the ways that you are regularly involved in gospel ministry, then working together in pairs, try to identify:

- a. Some of the temptations to pursue greatness or honour, or to lord it over those you lead.

- b. Some opportunities to take up the attitudes and posture of a servant.

4. Having recognised that we are regularly tempted to pursue our own greatness in ministry and lord our authority over those we lead, what can you do to put these desires to death?

5. How can you grow in taking up the attitudes and posture of a servant better?

6. Spend some time looking at what (if any) changes you would make to your earlier definition of 'gospel ministry' in consideration of what we have seen in Mark 10? Then share with the group.

D. Prayer

In light of Mark 10, spend time praying as a group for each other. Pray that God would grow each of you as servant-hearted leaders who follow in the footsteps of the Son of Man who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Session Three:

What is Gospel Ministry? (Part two)

A. Reflection

From what you've heard from God's Word so far at MTS Recruit, can you share one thing that has been encouraging to you?

Pray for your time together.

B. Looking at God's Word: What is Gospel Ministry? (Part Two)

1. Go back and look at your final definition of 'gospel ministry' from our last session. Can you summarise it in one word?

2. Read together Acts 6:1-7, and then briefly summarise what happens in this passage. Do you have any comments, questions, or first impressions?

3. Why do you think the apostles wanted to have time to do the ministry of word and prayer?

4. Is the 'distribution of food to the widows' an important task? Why or why not?

5. What does verse 7 mean when it says, “the word of God spread?”

6. What is the connection between this and the final result?

7. If you have time, read 2 Tim 4:1-4. Why does Paul tell Timothy to ‘Preach the word’?

C. Putting It All Together

1. From what you’ve learned during our last two sessions, put together a new one sentence definition of gospel ministry.

2. Paul tells Timothy to 'preach the word' in order to 'correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.' (2 Tim 4:2)

Give one example of how you would use God's Word in your ministries to:

a. Correct

b. Encourage

c. Rebuke

D. Prayer

Break up into small groups. Reflecting on what you have learnt, ask God to help you lead your ministries in a manner pleasing to God.

Session Four:

What is a Gospel Minister?

A. Reflection

From what you've heard from God's Word so far at MTS Recruit, can you share one thing that has been particularly challenging to you?

Pray for your time together.

B. Looking at God's Word: What Is A Gospel Minister?

1. Who is a Christian leader that has had a positive impact on you and why?

2. Choose one or two of the following passages each, and then:

- a. Write down what your passage(s) teach about the characteristics of a faithful servant of Christ.
- b. When finished, read your passage(s) to the group and summarise what you wrote down.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Colossians 4:12

1 Timothy 2:1-2

1 Timothy 4:13-16

1 Timothy 5:1-2

Titus 1:5-9

1 Peter 5:1-4

C. Putting it all together

1. From the verses we've looked at, what did you personally find most challenging?

2. Striving to answer this with proper humility, how have you been able to serve others in your ministry in some of the ways these verses describe?

3. Thinking through what we've looked at so far at MTS Recruit and in light of these passages, can you see yourself taking on more gospel responsibilities in the coming year(s)? If yes, share what this might look like for you.

D. Prayer

Pray in small groups, asking that God would continue to transform and equip you to proclaim Christ to the nations.

