

# Consider the *challenge* to gospel work



**MTS Recruit 2023**

**Peer Groups  
Strand 3**

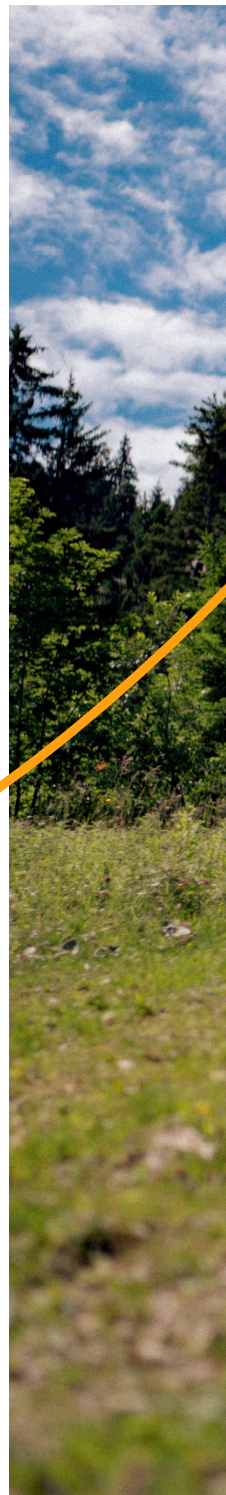
**MTS  
Recruit**

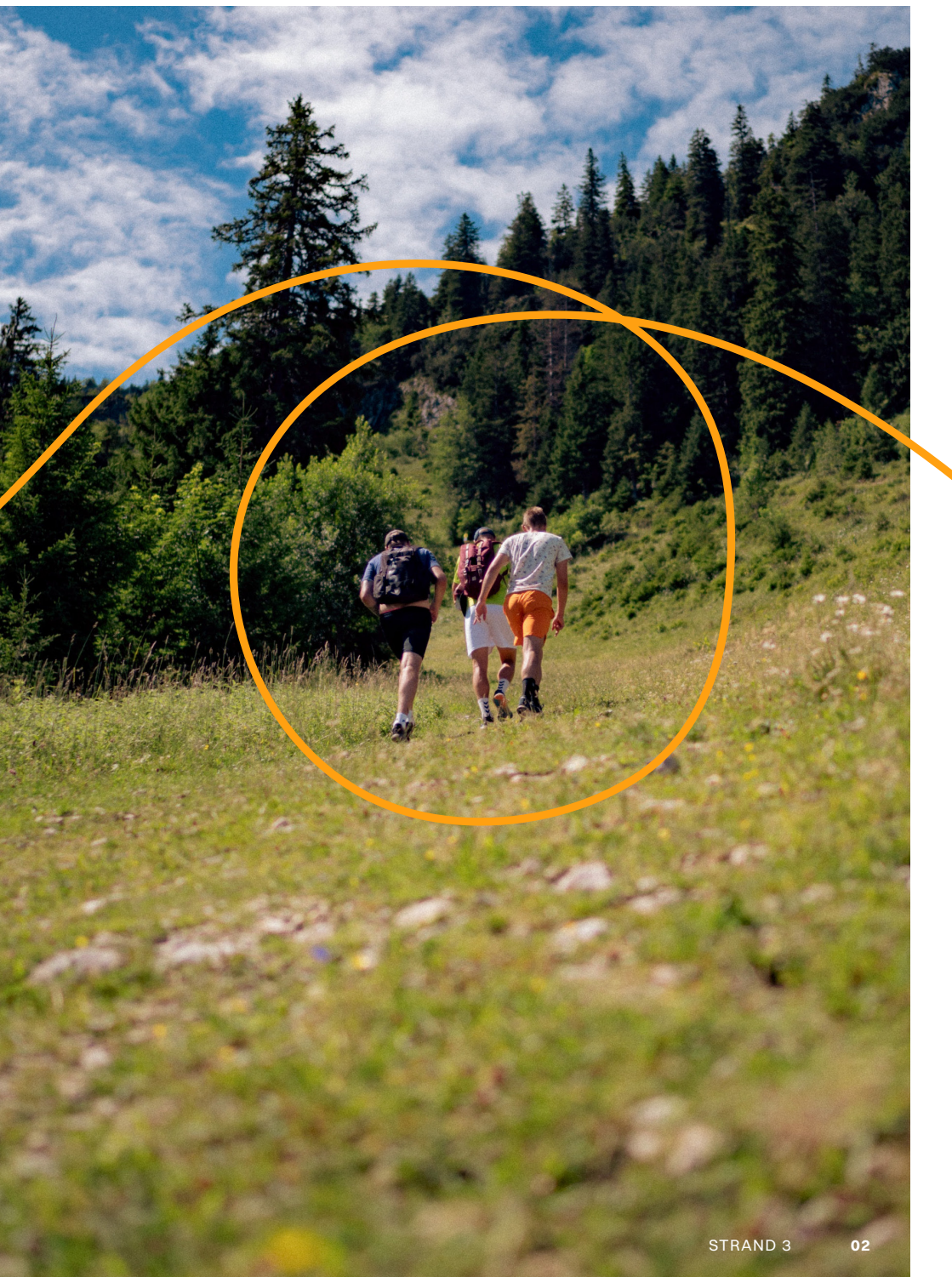
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**“For we are His workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus for  
good works.”**

**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 Faithfulness in 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 what ministries are you currently involved in?

3. How have you moved to a place where you're considering a Ministry Apprenticeship?

4. What is one challenge you are currently working through when it comes to starting a Ministry Apprenticeship in the future?

5. What do you hope to get out of MTS Recruit 2023?

**Pray for your time together.**

**B. Looking at God's Word: What is Faithfulness in Ministry?**

1. How would you answer if a younger Christian you are discipling asks you, "What does it mean to be faithful in ministry?"

2. Read 1 Timothy 4:6-16. Share any comments, questions or first impressions.

3. Have a go at filling in the table below. What ministry responsibilities are given to Timothy:

With respect to himself as a minister of the gospel?	With respect to God's people whom he leads?

4. From Paul's instructions to Timothy, what would you say were Paul's priorities for ministry? How do they compare to or correct what we might prioritise in ministry?

5. Go back and read 1 Timothy 3:1-13. This focuses on the qualifications for someone aspiring to be in ministry (the things Paul is looking for in a faithful minister). List the qualifications in this table according to gifts and godliness:

Gifts	Godliness

6. Any questions or comments about the things in this list?

7. What is the main emphasis - gifts or godliness?

8. How does this shape your thinking about ministry/preparing to do an apprenticeship?

9. What would you say 'faithfulness in ministry' meant for Paul?

### **C. Putting It All Together**

1. How do you think your current priorities in ministry match with Paul's?
2. Go back to the tables you filled out for 1 Tim 3 and 4. In which of these areas has God already been growing you in the last year? In what way?
3. Which areas of godliness and ministry do you need to grow in to be more faithful in ministry? How could you grow in this? Eg. what can you pray for, who could you speak to for help? Spend some time reflecting on this now.
4. Sometimes people compare faithfulness in ministry with fruitfulness in ministry. Is this a useful distinction? Why or why not?

5. Look back at how you thought you'd answer the younger Christian you're discipling. How might you want to change your answer to incorporate some of the ideas we've wrestled with from the Bible?

#### **D. Prayer**

In small groups, pray for God to grow your faithfulness in ministry in alignment with his Word.

### **Session Three:**

## **What is Faithfulness in 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 particularly encouraging to you?

**Pray for your time together.**

## **B. Looking at God's Word: What is Faithfulness in Ministry?**

1. Why might you suffer for being faithful in ministry?
2. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-10. Share any comments, questions or first impressions.
3. What do verses 1-2 say about what we need to be doing to be faithful in our ministries? How do we do this?

4. What are the three illustrations Paul gives of being faithful in ministry? What does each show us about what this faithfulness looks like?

a. Image 1:

What does this illustrate?

b. Image 2:

What does this illustrate?

c. Image 3:

What does this illustrate?

5. In verses 8-10, Paul talks about suffering for the gospel, but he is still full of joy.

a. How was he suffering?

b. Why is he still full of joy?

### **C. Putting It All Together**

1. Thinking about the illustrations we looked at in Question 4, what are some real-life examples of how they might apply to your own ministries?

2. As in verses 8-10, the Bible tells us that if we serve Christ, we will suffer for it at some time or another. How do you feel about this?

#### **D. Prayer**

In small groups, pray that you will be faithful and joyful in your ministries, especially when you suffer for following and proclaiming Christ.

## Session Four:

### What is Faithfulness in Ministry? (Part Three)

#### **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 Faithfulness in Ministry?**

1. What is a 'successful' ministry?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-15 and circle, underline and note:

a. anything that surprises you

b. repeated words

c. key themes

After reading together, spend a couple of minutes in quiet reflection to make some more notes. Then share what you noticed with the group.

3. How do verses 5-8 help shape our understanding of what constitutes faithfulness in ministry?

4. How do verses 9-15 help shape our understanding of what constitutes faithfulness in ministry?

### **C. Putting It All Together**

1. In small groups, consider a ministry 'task' (verse 5) you are currently involved in. What might it look like to 'build' this ministry with these 'materials':

Gold

Wood

Straw

Share your answers with your group.

**Join back with the main group.**

2. Take 3 minutes to make a simple plan to do one thing to grow as a faithful servant of Christ in the areas of conviction, character and competence.

- a. **Christian Character** (Godly living: prayer, godliness, relationships)

My One Action:

- b. **Christian Convictions** (Knowledge of God, Bible knowledge, Christian theology, ministry principles)

My One Action:

- c. **Gospel Ministry Competence** (Ministry skills: evangelism, teaching the Bible, leading others)

My One Action:

d. **Minister or Ministry leader** (Someone to share this plan with)

Name:

Plan for catching up:

Finally, each of you have been given 2 copies of 'All for the Kingdom'. One copy is for you and the other is for your ministry leader. This is a book that will help you to continue exploring the question "Should I be a full time gospel worker?" A great next step would be to message your ministry leader right now to ask if they would read through this book with you to help you explore if you should be a full time paid gospel worker.

## **D. Prayer**

Have each person pray for another person in your group, for God to change them to reflect Jesus more.



