

PEER GROUP LEADER BRIEF

Who is MTS?

Our Vision is to win the world for Christ by multiplying Gospel Workers through ministry apprenticeships.

At our core, we are a mission organisation that wants to see the lost know Christ as Lord and Saviour. We aim to do this by asking gifted, godly and bible-centered Gospel Workers to pastor Christians to be equipped to run their race to the end. By doing this, we pray that they themselves might become Gospel Workers who can continue to bring the gospel to the lost, and live out 2 Timothy 2:2.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

The Why of Peer Groups

The Purpose

Peer Groups exist at MTS Recruit to encourage Delegates, and have them encourage and help each other, to take their next step in considering how they can use their whole lives to serve Jesus. They will wrestle with the Scriptures and ask questions that should lead them to better understand Jesus' Lordship over their lives and his command to “go and make disciples” (Matt 28:19).

Please note that the aim of Peer Group leading is not necessarily to persuade your group to do an MTS apprenticeship as soon as possible, but it is always first and foremost to encourage them to follow Jesus with their whole lives. For some people, this will mean not going into full-time ministry, but for others it will mean that we get to help them in thinking through their next steps towards pursuing gospel work.

The What of Peer Groups

The Details

Peer Group leaders guide a small group of 6-8 Delegates through biblical material that will help them in their decision making as they consider pursuing vocational gospel ministry. These groups will meet multiple times throughout MTS Recruit, in 1-1.5 hour sessions.

We strongly encourage Bible College students to lead, and MTS Apprentices to co-lead, peer groups, because these two groups are closest to Delegates in their stage of thinking. These leaders have more recent memories of the questions and decisions that the Delegates are grappling with, but should also have a level of maturity as they have made these big decisions and decided to formally serve Jesus.

Each Peer Group is organised around four different stages of ministry thinking, with a trajectory of getting Delegates to potentially consider MTS Apprenticeships in four years' time (if they start at Strand 1).

The Four Strands are:

1. I love serving Jesus but I haven't really thought about doing gospel work.
2. I have done some thinking about doing gospel work (maybe been to a conference/info day) but have no definite plans.
3. I'm keen to pursue gospel work through an MTS apprenticeship but likely not in the next year.
4. I'm planning to start an MTS apprenticeship in 2025.

The Expectations of Leading

Before MTS Recruit:

- Attend the training afternoon at Moore Theological College.
- Pray for your Peer Group co-leader and your Peer Group, that you would all be transformed to be more like God's Son, and that you would love Father, Son and Spirit all the more, having been part of MTS Recruit.
- Prepare the Peer Group material to become familiar with the aim of the content in each session. Note any questions you have to discuss with your Peer Group co-leader.
- Arrange to meet, zoom or call your Peer Group co-leader and decide how you will lead the sessions (eg. both share in leading each session or have one leader per session and alternate sessions).

Please note we will aim to tell you which strand you're leading, and who you're leading with, as early as possible. But the nature of conferences is that people often sign up at the last minute. This means that in a small number of cases we may need to change which strand you're leading at the last minute - if lots of people sign up to a strand that we don't have enough leaders for. We will do everything we can to avoid this, but sometimes it is unavoidable. We ask for flexibility and understanding with this.

At MTS Recruit:

- Please arrive early (3.30pm) to assist with some of the set-up tasks including setting up the auditorium, welcoming, ushering, parking monitoring etc. Dinner will be provided - take the opportunity to meet your co-leader who should be there early as well.
- Go through the Strand Booklet material with your Peer Group, but allow the conversations to be organic and not rushed.
- Share your own wisdom and experiences when appropriate, and direct them to more suitable help if needed. You are not their counsellor.

The Strand Booklet Material

There are different Strand Booklets for each of the 4 strands of ministry thinking, meaning you will have different questions depending on the strand you are leading.

You will be informed of your Peer Group Strand prior to the Conference via email, along with access to the appropriate Strand Booklet.

The general flow of questions for each Peer Group Strand is as follows:

1. Meeting your group/Reflection:

This is a time for ice breaker questions, asking them about their current ministry involvement and eventually their reflection on the talks and content of the conference.

2. Looking at God's Word:

Open Scripture together and explore what the Bible has to say about gospel ministry, with questions designed to engage with your group's current stage of ministry thinking.

3. Applying to ourselves and our ministries:

Here we attempt to pull together everything they've just read in the Bible, asking them to begin thinking about the implications it has for them and how they serve Jesus.

4. Putting it together:

This usually seeks to consolidate an initial question asked of your group at the beginning of the discussion, asking them whether they've changed their answer or have any further insights.

5. Prayer:

Get your group to pray together or in smaller groups for what they've been challenged by during the discussion.

Peer Group Leader Assistance

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact:

Josh Phillips at joshuaphillips2505@gmail.com or

Ling Shooter at cltang1108@gmail.com

Sessions One & Two: What is Gospel Ministry? (Part One)

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.

- *Gospel ministry is a life dedicated to proclaiming the good news of Christ in sacrificial service of the Lord.*

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

- *Jesus demonstrates that he knows the suffering that lies ahead of him and yet still obeys the will of his Father.*

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?)

- *Their indignation reveals that they may have felt entitled to a certain position of authority and glory.*

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?

- *Recognising the biblical example of leadership is deeply counter-cultural*
- *Examining your motives*
- *Putting others first willingly and knowingly*
- *Confessing the temptation to seek leadership for the wrong reasons*

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

- *Christ's determination to willingly suffer for the sake of his people*
- *Christ's innocence and yet willingness to die for a guilty people*
- *God's mercy in taking away the punishment we rightly deserve*

Strand 1 Leader Notes

Session Three: What is Gospel Ministry? (Part Two)

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

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

- *This is what actually advances God's kingdom!*

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

- *Yes- God cares for all people in their need in his common grace and is an important aspect of the Christian life.*

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

- *This passage shows that there is a priority to proclaiming the gospel and word ministry. Note that after the delegation of these tasks, the "word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly"- there is a direct relationship between preaching of the word and the number of believers.*

Strand 2 Leader Notes

Sessions One & Two: Why Do Gospel Ministry?

B. Looking at God's Word: Why Do Gospel Ministry?

5. What do you think the work of the Lord is (15:58) and why is it not in vain (how does the argument of chapter 15 help)? (try to answer this question before looking at the 2 following quotes)

- This question is not trying to tell people in your group that if they don't choose to do ministry they are '2nd class Christians'. As the article importantly puts it, "the road sweeper and the pastor stand equal before God"! But it is trying to highlight the theological significance of the resurrection, and therefore the priority of evangelism and edification which have eternal consequences.*
6. Would you now change or sharpen how you initially answered question 5?
- This topic will be felt deeply by some and can bring up questions about the worth of their work. In this section try to help people keep wrestling with the text as much as possible. But also help them see that secular work isn't worthless - it's just that in light of the resurrection it won't last forever. But the way they do that work will last because godliness will continue. The roads you sweep will not last, but the people you witness to and build up in the faith will.*

Session Three: Character and Gospel Ministry

B. Looking at God's Word: Character and Gospel Ministry

6. Discuss the statement: "if I'm struggling with sin in any of the areas from 1 Tim 3 then I shouldn't consider vocational gospel ministry"

- Above reproach doesn't mean sinless. It looks like a life of godliness as expressed in these verses that is not easily refuted by those who know you. 1 Tim 4:15 assumes that the faithful minister will make progress in godliness (and teaching gifts) rather than be perfect.*

C. Putting It All Together

4. How would you know if you have the character required to pursue vocational gospel ministry?

- This is best determined through ministry leaders who know the person well. If any delegate doesn't have a close relationship with any ministry leaders in their church, encourage them to make this a priority.*

Session Four: Decisions and Gospel Ministry

B. Looking at God's Word: Decisions and Gospel Ministry

4. What does v7 mean?

- *Not that each of us have different amounts of salvation. But that all of us have been given different gifts. The reference to Psalm 68:18 the idea is of a king who has won a victory and now gives out gifts from the spoils of war.*

5. What are the gifts that God gives?

- *The gifts here are people - in particular people who build the church through speaking/teaching the word*

7. Why does God NOT give these gifts to the church? (think of ways that we might wrongly view evangelists, shepherds and teachers in our churches)

- *A wrong view is the shepherds and teachers are to do all the work of ministry. The key is that these people are gifts to the church for the purpose of equipping the saints for the work of ministry.*

Strand 3 Leader Notes

Please make note of suggested timeframes for each Session.

Sessions One & Two: What does the Bible tell us about being a leader in God's church?

A. Meeting Your Group (45 min)

B. Looking at God's Word: Being a servant-leader in God's church

1. Read Titus 1:5-9 and fill in the table below in groups of 2-3. (45 min)

Character	Competence
<i>Above reproach (v6)</i>	<i>able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it (v9)</i>
<i>Husband of one wife (v6)</i>	
<i>Children are believers (v6)</i>	
<i>Not arrogant (v7)</i>	
<i>Not quick-tempered (v7)</i>	
<i>Not a drunkard (v7)</i>	
<i>Not violent (v7)</i>	
<i>Not greedy for gain (v7)</i>	
<i>Hospitable (v8)</i>	
<i>A lover of good (v8)</i>	
<i>Self-controlled (v8)</i>	
<i>Upright (v8)</i>	
<i>Holy (v8)</i>	

Remainder of Sessions One & Two (1 hour)

3. Which aspects are surprising? Why is this surprising and why do you think it's included?

- *hospitable: being something that says you share your home life with people, and there is a relational aspect to being in ministry*

4. What is the main emphasis for those who should be appointed to church leadership: character or competence?

- *BOTH elders and overseers need to above reproach! Focus on godliness in all spheres of life over gifts!*

6. What would you say 'being a godly leader' meant for Paul?

- *Being godly and teachable over being competent. Not that competence doesn't matter!*

Strand 3 Leader Notes

Session Three: Ministry Manner, Motivations and Mindset

B. Looking at God's Word: Ministry Manner, Motivations and Mindset

1. Read 1 Thess 2:1-12 to observe the lifestyle that Paul models in doing gospel work. How does Paul describe his ministry and his motivations:

With respect to himself as a minister of the gospel	With respect to God's people to whom he ministers?
<i>Suffered and treated shamefully (v2)</i>	<i>Gentle among you like a nursing mother (v7)</i>
<i>Required boldness (v2)</i>	Abundantly affectionate (v8)
<i>Amidst much conflict (v2)</i>	Being holy and righteous and blameless (v10)
<i>Not motivated by error or impurity (v3)</i>	Like a father exhorts and encourages (vv11-12)
<i>To please God not man (v4)</i>	
<i>Speaking without with flattery or greed (v5)</i>	
<i>Not seeking glory or privileges (v6)</i>	
<i>Working tirelessly to not be a burden (v9)</i>	

SUMMARY: Gospel work is labouring tirelessly in love, amidst conflict and shame, to please God not man.

C. Putting It All Together

2. On ministry mindset:

- *Work hours and separation of 'work life' and 'personal life': If your motivation is to do good ministry and have a good balanced life then you're not signing up for biblical gospel ministry.*

Strand 3 Leader Notes

Session Four: Warnings for those who desire to be church leaders

B. Looking at God's Word: Warnings for those who desire to be church leaders

3. Table 1

Passage	Warning
James 3:1	<i>Teachers are judged more strictly</i>
Mark 10:32-45	<i>Following Christ's example of leadership means the greatest servants of Christ must expect to serve and not be served- it's not about glory or position!</i>
Luke 12:48	<i>To those who have given much, much will be expected</i>
1 Peter 5:1-5	<i>Do not lord over your sheep for God opposes the proud</i>
Proverbs 16:1-9	<i>Commit your work to the Lord for he will establish your plans</i>

Table 2

Passage	Warning
Matt 23:1-28	<i>Beware of hypocrisy in your own life</i>

C. Putting It All Together

4. What is the aim of this warning?

- Not to put you off pursuing vocational ministry, but to do it with seriousness*

6. Which aspects of our Triune God give you confidence that God does his kingdom work through broken vessels?

- Holy Spirit who sanctifies us, Father God who is sovereign and works through his chosen people, Jesus' finished work on the cross and him being the one who we glorify and not ourselves*