

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-centred 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 Gospel workers\Bible college students who have done apprenticeships and 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:

- Watch training videos on the MTS Recruit website. (Requires registration, if you have issues accessing videos please contact victoria@mts.com.au)
- 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.

Before and during MTS Recruit:

- 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. Just remember, 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:

Dan Kong

daniel.kong@afes.org.au

The 'Why' of Mentoring

"And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.'" — Mark 8:34–35

The Purpose

Mentoring contributes to the main purpose of MTS Recruit, which is to encourage delegates to live their lives under the Lordship of Christ, stirring hearts to the urgency of gospel proclamation. One way MTS Recruit challenges delegates to do this is by considering ministry apprenticeship.

Mentoring provides a unique opportunity for delegates to explore this challenge, with someone already working in ministry. Delegates come to MTS Recruit for many reasons. For some an apprenticeship may either not yet be on the radar, or not appropriate at all! Mentoring provides an opportunity to think through the next steps in a safe and relaxed environment. Regardless of the outcome, we would love for each delegate to leave the conference, challenged to consider how best to continue taking up their cross and following Jesus.

The 'What' of Mentoring

What's Involved in a Mentoring Session?

During the conference, each Delegate will spend an hour in discussion with a Mentor who is currently serving in full-time ministry. A mentoring session should be a relaxed, informal conversation. You don't need to be their counsellor or too prescriptive. The conversation shouldn't only be future focused but also explore life now and what has led them to this point.

Here are our top tips for a great mentoring session:

- Pray for your Delegates before, during, and after your session.
- Meet them before your conversation to build the relationship.
- Listen.
- Aim for an organic conversation rather than an interview.
- Explain why you are meeting and give them a chance to ask questions.
- Your time is limited, be thoughtful and intentional with your questions.
- Share wisdom and personal experience if appropriate. This may include directing them to more suitable help.

Suggested Questions

These following 'suggested questions' act as a guide for your conversation with your Delegates, and cover their past (Q1–4), present (Q5–11), and future (Q12–15). This helps trace out their trajectory, leading them to consider how they are aligning themselves to God's trajectory for the world (Luke 24:46–47, Acts 1:8).

1. How have you found the conference so far? Why did you come to MTS Recruit?
What do you want to get out of this weekend?
2. Has MTS Recruit raised any questions for you?
3. How did you become a Christian?
4. What are some ways you have been serving in the past?
5. Over the past years as a Christian, how has God shaped you and those you've been serving (in convictions, character and competencies)?
6. What does a normal week look like for you now?
7. What ministries are you involved in now? What do you like about it? Why do you do it? Who grows through that ministry?

Q7 Mentoring Tip: It is easy for the Delegate to answer Question 7 in terms of structured or official roles, but probe further in helping them see that serving is not about being in a role or position, but about people.

8. How do you grow personally as a Christian?
9. Have you shared the gospel recently with a non-Christian? How did it go?
10. If you had to explain what God's plan for the world is, what would you say?

Q10 Mentoring Tip: This is to see how the Delegate articulates theology, also the basis for next two questions.

11. How do you think that affects you now?
12. What are your future plans in light of this? Where do you think you might be in 5 year's time?

Q12 Mentoring Tip: Help the delegate think about how they will serve people in word and prayer, rather than serve in a particular role or position. Try to work out what this looks like in different spheres of their life. Start with the next year, then think about the future. Help the delegate make some concrete goals and work out how they can serve God in light of his plan for the world.

13. Have you thought about a ministry apprenticeship? What are some reasons you would consider one? What might be some obstacles that hinder you from doing a ministry apprenticeship?
14. Has anyone encouraged you to think about a ministry apprenticeship before?
What hesitations might your family, friends or ministry leader have if you were to do one?
15. What is the next step for you?

Follow Up

Part of the next step for Delegates is encouraging them to talk to someone they know – this could be their minister, the staff at their university Christian group, or a mature Christian friend they trust.

If none of these options are available, could you follow them up? Please consider your own capacity and limitations in pursuing this option, but it could look like:

- meeting up with them twice before next year's MTS Recruit,
- calling them or chatting online, or
- introducing them to someone you trust who could follow them up.

These conversations don't only happen at MTS Recruit, but throughout the year. Consider who can you keep 'mentoring' to encourage in their next steps, with regards to training in ministry, understanding the urgency of gospel proclamation, and living under the Lordship of Christ.

The 'How' of Mentoring

The Details

Mentors will be assigned between 2–4 Delegates for discussions over the weekend.

If you or your delegate's circumstances change, or it is not possible to meet during the conference, please let MTS Recruit know as soon as possible by emailing Daniel Douch (ddouch@mts.com.au) or visiting the MTS Info Desk at the Conference. This will give us time to assign a new mentor.

Everything you need for Mentoring at MTS Recruit is available on your online Conference Page. You can access this by heading to mtsrecruit.com and logging into your account using the details you created during your registration.

From here, you will be able to access:

- your Mentoring Brief,
- details of who you are mentoring, including their pre-mentoring survey if they have completed it, and
- two Mentor Training Videos with helpful tips and guidance on mentoring.

Your delegates won't be confirmed until right before the Conference. Please contact your assigned delegates by the Saturday morning of the Conference to arrange a time to meet.

The Pre-Mentoring Survey

A survey is filled out by delegates prior to the conference designed to help them start thinking through their current views about gospel ministry, and provide Mentors with some background information to engage them more deeply. Not every delegate will fill out a survey. Should your assigned Delegates complete this survey, you will be able to access it via your online Conference Page, but please keep all information received confidential.

Mentoring Assistance

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

Daniel Douch

ddouch@mts.com.au