



# Consider the challenge to gospel work ↗



**PEER GROUPS  
STRAND 3**



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# MTS Recruit 2024

**“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 does the Bible tell us about being a leader in God's church?

The following content is to be split over Peer Group Sessions 1 and 2. Take your time getting to know everyone in the group. Regardless of where you get up to in the content, make time for prayer at the end of the sessions before lunch.

#### 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 2024?
6. What things do you think you should focus on as you prepare to start a ministry apprenticeship?

Pray for your time together.

**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.

NB: Application of aspects of this passage will depend on your denomination (e.g. elder vs overseer, whether women can serve as overseers or just deacons). Please speak with your minister for clarification.

Character	Competence

Come back together as a group and discuss the following questions:

2. What questions do you have about the passage?

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

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

5. How does this shape your thinking about ministry/preparing to do a ministry apprenticeship?

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

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

1. Spend some time now reflecting on your own character. What are some areas you have grown in over the past year?

2. What are some areas that you think you need to grow in still?

3. How might others assess you? Think of your Bible study leader, co-members, ministry team members.

4. What steps will you take in the next year to grow in the areas you identified in Q2?

#### **D. Prayer**

Choose one of the following passages to reflect and pray through in groups of 2-3, and pray personally about the aspects of godliness you've identified from Titus 1.

John 15:1-10

Colossians 3:1-11

Romans 6:12-14

Ephesians 5:15-21

## Session Three:

### Ministry Manner, Motivations and Mindset

#### 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: Ministry Manner, Motivations and Mindset

Fast-forward 10-20 years, and imagine you're working in ministry full-time, congrats! What do you expect might be:

some of the perks of a ministry lifestyle?

some of the challenges?

Think about your family/extended family/friends/the world

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 <u>himself</u> as a minister of the gospel	With respect to <u>God's people</u> to whom he ministers

2. What questions do you have about the passage?

3. Which of Paul's motivations surprise you?

4. Which of Paul's motivations resonate with yours?

5. Which of Paul's motivations do you find the most challenging?

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

1. On pleasing God in our ministry rather than pleasing man:

- a. What are some of the subtle ways that we can do ministry in a way that seeks to please man?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Is it possible to get into ministry because you love ministry more than you love God? How would you know if you do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. How do you actually cultivate a heart that wants to please God and not man?

## 2. On ministry mindset:

Ministry isn't a job that ends with business hours. Notice how Paul describes his ministry like being a father and mother to his church. This leads to the question:

- a. What wouldn't a father or mother do for their kids?  
How much does this resonate/dissonate with your mindset and expectations for a lifetime of vocational ministry?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. On the other hand, some of us may fall into the trap of over-working. How does Paul's motivations help protect us from this trap?

One of the things that we hear about any workplace is the work-life balance: having good boundaries between work and home life, having a comfortable lifestyle that suits me and my family, and ensuring we minimise the stress and busy-ness of life. It's the great Australian dream! But Paul's manner and mindset for ministry seems to be about bearing the cost of ministry for the sake of the people he's serving.

- c. What assumptions do you have about ministry that this challenges? What things will you have to wrestle with to practically apply this mindset?

#### **D. Prayer**

Break into small groups and pray that God would give you pure motives for gospel ministry, a desire to please Him and not man.

## Session Four:

### Warnings for those who desire to be church leaders

#### 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: Warnings for those who desire to be church leaders

1. What scares you about the idea of starting a ministry apprenticeship?
2. Reflecting on your answers to 1, which ones are good, bad, right, wrong, trivial or biblical?

3. In groups of 2-3, choose one of the tables below to fill out.

Consider: What warnings does the Bible have for those who seek to be leaders in God’s church?

**Table 1**

Passage	Warning
James 3:1	
Mark 10:32-45	
Luke 12:48	
1 Peter 5:1-5	
Proverbs 16:1-9	

**Table 2**

Passage	Warning
Matthew 23:1-28	

**C. Putting It All Together**

1. As you considered a ministry apprenticeship how much have you reflected on this aspect of the Bible’s teaching?

2. Why do you think teachers are judged more strictly?

3. What's your immediate reaction to this warning?

4. What is the aim of this warning?

5. How does God equip and prepare those in vocational ministry to withstand the pressures of being a leader in his church? (Psalm 127:1-2, Eph 4:11-16)

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

#### **D. Prayer**

Pray in response to the group's reflections, and encourage each other to keep trusting God as the one who builds his church.

