

# MTS MISSION MINDED Katoomba



Peer Groups 2025  
Strand 3



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# Welcome

## to MTS Mission Minded Katoomba 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.

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

**EPHESIANS 2:10**



# Session One

## What is your role in the church?

### A. Meeting Your Group

To get started, each person is to choose 2 questions of the questions below to share with the group:

- How did you become a Christian?
- Where and what ministries are you currently involved in?
- Who is someone that has encouraged you to pursue vocational/full-time ministry?
- Who is someone that has been a faithful role model to you over the years and why?
- What is one challenge you are currently working through when it comes to starting a Ministry Apprenticeship in the future?
- What things do you think you should focus on as you prepare to start a Ministry Apprenticeship?
- What do you hope to get out of MTS Mission Minded Katoomba this year?
- What questions do you hope to explore at MTS Mission Minded Katoomba? (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: God's gifts to the church**

As a group, discuss this question: what would you say is the purpose of church? And how are we meant to know our individual purpose within the church?

God has wonderfully and incredibly brought every Christian into relationship with him, and also with each other to sit under the lordship of Christ. Amazingly, we have been included into God's church to "display the manifold wisdom of God to the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 3:10). And we aren't to live out our faith alone, but have been given one another to love, serve and encourage in the faith. Ephesians has a lot to say about the church and our role that we each play in the church.

Read Ephesians 4:1-16 and discuss the questions below.

1. What stands out to you from the text? What questions do you have?

2. What are some of the big themes of this part of Paul's letter to the Ephesians?

3. Unity features a lot in this passage. Why might it be something that Paul wants us to know?

4. Verse 7 starts with a “But” which is a hint that Paul knows that unity will be hard for the church to achieve. What has God given to the church to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”? (see verses 7-14)\*

5. What is the big goal of the church, according to verse 13 and 14?

6. How is the idea of the church being a body helpful in living as Christians? And how does it help us think about what God is doing in church?

\*This isn't to say that only those who are gifted with teaching, leading, evangelistic etc gifts are to teach and evangelise. All of us are to do these things as Christians! But we can thank God for those who have been especially gifted on these fronts and the help it gives to building up the church and advancing the gospel.

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

1. Spend some time reflecting on the gifts that God has given your church. How have you seen God equipping the saints to build up the body in your local church?

2. How have you seen God gifting you with gifts to build up the body? What are some of the ways you've used these gifts for church?

3. Gifts from God aren't static but can be nurtured and grown. What are some ways you can grow your gifts to equip other saints in the ministry? Think about different opportunities and ministries at church, people you can invest in, people you can invite to come alongside you in developing their gifts as well.

4. If you do end up in gospel ministry, how does this passage help us think about ourselves and our role?

5. What are some of the ways that you could express the principles of this passage in future gospel ministry?

a. What kind of things would you do?

b. What kind of things would you need to be careful about?

## **D. Prayer**

Pray for these things in pairs to wrap up.

# Session Two

## Preparing yourself for a lifetime of vocational ministry

### A. Reflection

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

Pray for your time together.

### B. Looking at God's Word: Presenting yourself as a worker approved by God

As you look ahead to the next year or so, how will you prepare yourself to be a full-time gospel worker? Preparing your mind for the road ahead starts with your convictions. See how Paul prepared Timothy for his ministry by reading the passage below.

Read 2 Timothy 2: 2-26

1. What questions do you have of the text?

2. What stands out to you in the text?

3. What's the context of this letter?

4. What is Paul's invitation to Timothy in verse 3?

5. What are the common themes between the soldier, athlete and farmer?

a. How do these themes relate to ministry?

6. Why do you think Paul draws out these themes in the letter? (Think of the reason for Paul writing this letter).

a. Are these ideas of battle, hard work and perseverance surprising to you?

7. Why does Paul refer to the gospel in verses 8-13?

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

1. Paul's reason for writing to Timothy is to galvanise his convictions for the season ahead. When ministry gets hard, Paul's encouragement to Timothy is not to give up but persevere through the hardship of the gospel, because of the gospel.

How does this passage make you feel about the idea of entering into vocational ministry? Does the idea of ministry being about hard work, perseverance and a battle put you off in any way?

2. How does the idea of ministry being about hard work, perseverance and a battle prepare you for a lifetime of vocational ministry?

3. How does (or has in the past) the gospel sustain and motivate you to persevere in times of suffering while doing ministry?

## **D. Prayer**

# Session Three

## The inner war of vocational ministry

### A. Reflection

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

Pray for your time together.

### B. Book Excerpt: Dangerous Calling

Vocational ministry can be thought of as a battle of two kingdoms. But it might not be the kingdoms you'd first expect! As you prepare to take on a ministry apprenticeship in the next few years, use these years to best prepare yourself for the battle ahead. Read this excerpt from 'Dangerous Calling' by Paul Tripp and discuss as a group.

Taken from Dangerous Calling by Paul Tripp, Copyright © 2012, pp. 97-100, 102-110. Used by permission of Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, [www.crossway.org](http://www.crossway.org).



1. What is the war that every person in vocational ministry battles with? And in what ways does this battle play out?

2. Tripp lists a number of pursuits that accompany human glory (p99). Even though these are more applicable for those already in vocational ministry, which of these are/could be potential pursuits for you?

a. Are there others you can think of that personally get in the way of giving glory to God's kingdom?

b. In what ways does the gospel speak into our specific struggles?

3. What are some of the dangers of forgetting the gospel?

a. What difference does it make to remember the gospel as you serve in ministry?

4. Which of the 'shifting treasures' of identity, maturity, reputation, rest and confidence seem the most familiar or even dangerous to you personally (pp102-107)?

a. What are some steps that you can take to address these treasure shifts and keep fighting for the kingdom of God over the kingdom of self?

5. What difference does it make to remember that:

a. we are living in a fallen world?

b. the big battles fought are in our hearts?

c. we all run somewhere for refuge?

d. we are all headed for heaven?

6. Amidst all the potential challenges of ministry, it is more than worth it! Share with the group why you want to do an apprenticeship in the future and what has encouraged you this weekend to see that it's worth it?

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

1. Who is someone you can talk to about being held accountable for these dangers? Make a brief plan about who you can share this with, and when you'll raise it with them. It might be your Bible study leader, your congregational minister or your pastor.

## **D. Prayer**

In pairs or as a whole group, pray for the personal challenges that you've identified in this discussion, and from the conference, and commit to praying for each other even after the conference has wrapped up.

Pray as a group for hearts that treasure the things that God treasures, and are fixed on the things that have eternal value and that truly satisfy.

Ask God for forgiveness for falling into the seductive ways of the world that is passing away, and for help to remember the grace and the riches that we have already been blessed with, through our Saviour and co-heir Jesus Christ.



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