

MTS MISSION MINDED Katoomba



With Leader's Notes

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 (20 minutes)

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?

Living as Christians in the world, marked by humility, grace, love and unity (v1-3). Unity is a big theme in verse 4-6 with "one" being repeated 7 times in 3 verses, as well as the idea of the body (v4, 12, 15, 16).

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

Context: Jews and Gentiles previously divided but not united through faith in Christ. Today: division within church still happens easily. And big picture: it's human nature to be self-centred! And verse 14: there is human cunning that threatens the church. If the church is to display God's manifold wisdom to the watching world, then we need to be united as we do that.

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)*

The gifts of the apostles (the original 12 disciples plus Matthias), the prophets (those who have been recorded as speaking messages from God), the evangelists (the disciples and others in the church today), the shepherds and teachers (ministers and leaders in the church today)

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

To reach full unity in our faith and in our knowledge of Christ. This also has the effect of protecting us against human deception which threatens the church's unity. Also remember Eph 3:10.

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?

It reminds us that we aren't alone in this task of maintaining and attaining unity! God has given us what we need to achieve unity, and we have been made part of the body to build each other up, as well as build up the strength of the whole church. The church is also God's body, with Christ as the head. What a privilege and joy it is to be God's "arms and legs" in the world!

*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?

As a gift to the church, what a privilege and what a responsibility! And your role is to equip the saints, not to do everything yourself.

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?

Main warning is about thinking you're to be all of those things in the church and not encourage others fulfilling their God-ordained roles.

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?

Paul instructing Timothy on persevering in the early days of ministry with false teachers working against him.

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

To join him in suffering for the work of the gospel.

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

Work hard according to the foundation set by the one over you, in order to share in the reward at the end.

a. How do these themes relate to ministry?

Battle, hard work and perseverance, all while keeping the big goal in mind.

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?

To help Timothy keep the big picture in mind - Jesus has risen! But he suffered along the way. We are united with Christ in our life and death.

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.

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

(p98: the war between the kingdom of God versus the kingdom of self, fought over your heart. Doing ministry well means winning ground for either/both kingdoms).

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?

(appreciation, reputation, success, power, comfort, control).

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?

i.e. it helps me not to pursue comfort because it shapes me to die to self and see this life as very short.

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

(look to ministry for identity, security, hope, meaning, well-being and purpose; you're driven to hide your failures; you ask ministry to do what Christ has already done; and so ministry becomes burdened with a weight it cannot bear).

- 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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