

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 Mission Minded Katoomba 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 full-time ministry. These groups will meet multiple times throughout MTS Mission Minded Katoomba, 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 a Ministry Apprenticeship but likely not in the next year
4. I'm planning to start a Ministry Apprenticeship in 2026

The Expectations of Leading

Before MTS Mission Minded Katoomba:

- Attend the training afternoon at Moore Theological College or SMBC (to be confirmed).
- 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 Mission Minded Katoomba.
- 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 that 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 we may need to create additional Peer Groups and change which strand you're leading at the last minute. We will do everything we can to avoid this, but sometimes it is unavoidable. We ask for flexibility and understanding with this.

At MTS Mission Minded Katoomba:

- Please arrive early (3.30pm) to assist with set-up tasks including setting up the auditorium, ushering, welcoming, and parking monitoring. 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 Ling Shooter at serving@st-thomas.org.au or Joshua Phillips at joshuaphillips2505@gmail.com