



MTS MISSION MINDED Newcastle



PEER GROUPS Strand 3

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WELCOME!

Welcome to MTS Mission Minded 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.

Session One:

CHURCH AND THE NATURE OF MINISTRY

A. Meeting Your Group

To get started, each person is to choose two 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 who has encouraged you to pursue vocational/full-time ministry?

Who is someone who 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?

What questions do you hope to explore at MTS Mission Minded?

(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: Church and the Nature of Ministry

1. As a group, discuss: 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

2. Briefly summarise what happens in this passage. Do you have any comments, questions, or first impressions?

3. What is the big goal of the church, according to verses 11-16?

4. Paul uses the image of a body to describe how this goal is achieved. How does this image help us understand our role in church? How does it shape the way we think about what God is doing in the church?

5. What is the focus of a leader in God's church?

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13

6. Briefly summarise what happens in this passage. Do you have any comments, questions, or first impressions?

7. What's the context of this letter? What is Paul's invitation to Timothy in 1:8 and 2:3?

8. What do a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer have in common? How do these themes relate to ministry?

9. Why is remembering the gospel central to gospel ministry (vv. 8-13)?

C. Putting It All Together

1. If you went into ministry, how would these passages shape your view of yourself and your role?

2. Spend some time reflecting on the gifts that God has given your church. How have you seen God equipping the saints, including you, to build up the body in your local 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, and people you can invite to come alongside you and develop their gifts as well.

4. 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?

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

D. Prayer

Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for the way he equips his church and ask for perseverance, faithfulness and gospel convictions as you continue to consider the call to vocational ministry.

Session Two:

THE INNER WAR OF VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

A. Reflection

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

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.

Scan the QR to read this chapter from *Dangerous Calling* by Paul Tripp and discuss as a group.

Excerpt from Chapter 7: War Zones, Dangerous Calling
by Paul David Tripp, pp 97-100, 104-110.



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 (p. 99). Even though these are more applicable for those already in vocational min-

istry, which of these are/could be potential pursuits for you?

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

3. What are some of the dangers of forgetting the gospel? 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 seems the most familiar or even dangerous to you personally (pp. 102-107)?

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?

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

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.

2. 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.

D. Prayer

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.

