



MTS MISSION MINDED Newcastle



PEER GROUPS

Strand 4

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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:

WHAT IS GOSPEL MINISTRY?

A. Meeting Your Group

To get started, go around the group and share:

How you became a Christian?

What are you excited about in starting a Ministry Apprenticeship next year?

What are you concerned about in starting a Ministry Apprenticeship next year?

What questions do you want to work through/what do you hope to get out of MTS Mission Minded this year?

(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: What is Gospel Ministry?

1. Write down a one-sentence definition of 'gospel ministry' and then share it with each other.

Read Mark 10:32-45

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

3. How do verses 32-34 set the context for what follows?

4. Look at James and John's request (verse 37) and the ten's indignation (verse 41). What does this reveal about their hearts and their understanding of their roles? (Or their 'view of ministry' as we might say today?)

5. Jesus presents an upside-down concept of leadership, where 'great' Christian leaders are to be servants and slaves of all (verses 43-44). What might this look like practically for Christian leaders?

6. From the passage, what should motivate us to live our lives as servants in ministry? How can we rightly comprehend how astounding and transformative this is?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-11.

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

8. In verses 1-3, Peter identifies six specific behaviours – three negative and three positive (outlined below). What could these look like for you during your Ministry Apprenticeship? Break up into smaller groups and share your answers with each other

a) *Not because you must* (bad):

What might serving under compulsion look like?

b) *But because you are willing* (good):

What might serving willingly look like?

c) *Not pursuing dishonest gain* (bad):

What sorts of dishonest gain might tempt you?

d) *But eager to serve* (good):

What would a servant-heart make you do?

e) *Not lording it over those entrusted to you* (bad):

How might you abuse your authority?

f) *But being examples to the flock* (good):

How can you be a good example?

3. What parts of being a shepherd are a model for Christian leadership?

4. What does the call for humility in verses 5-6 mean for you as you begin your Ministry Apprenticeship?

5. How could the threats in verses 8-9 show up during your Ministry Apprenticeship?

6. How might verses 7, 10-11 help you face the challenges of your Ministry Apprenticeship next year?

C. Putting It All Together

1. Can you think of someone involved in gospel ministry (paid or unpaid) who is a 'servant'? What is it about their attitude and approach that makes them stand out to you?

2. Having recognised that we are regularly tempted to pursue our own greatness in ministry and lord our authority over those we lead, what can you do to put these desires to death?

3. How can you grow in taking up the attitudes and posture of a servant better?

4. Spend some time looking at what (if any) changes you would make to your earlier definition of 'gospel ministry' in consideration of what we have seen in Mark 10 and 1 Peter 5? Then share with the group.

D. Prayer

Pray in small groups, asking God to change you and each other, so we can have servant hearts that reflect the leadership model shown in Mark 10 and 1 Peter 5. Pray that Christ will be glorified in your apprenticeships.

Session Two:

WORKING WITH OTHERS IN 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?

Pray for your time together.

B. Looking at God's Word: Working with Others in Ministry

The Bible doesn't say anything about being on a 'paid ministry team' as we think of it. This is because there is an assumption that if you are a follower of Christ, you are in ministry and on a mission with all other Christians, whether you are financially supported by others or not. This study will look at some things the Bible says about how we should treat the people we are in ministry with, whether they are a part of your "paid ministry team" or volunteers in your church.

1. Break up into small groups and take one section each, writing down what you think it says about working with others in ministry.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 & Philippians 2:1-4

Romans 12:1-16 & Philippians 2:19-24

Philippians 1:1-11 & Ephesians 4:11-14

Share your thoughts with the whole group.

Scan the QR code and watch the video:
Working with your Trainer by Dave Moore (7 min)



Share one thing you found helpful in the video in preparing to work with your trainer next year.

C. Putting It All Together

In the same small groups as before, summarise what you have learned about working with others in ministry in 3 different 'attitude words'. Each individual word should express a different attitude you need to work on if you are in ministry with others. Then write down a possible situation in ministry where you will need to have this attitude.

Each group will then share what they wrote with the whole group.

Attitude	When might you need to have this attitude?

D. Prayer

Break up into small groups. Reflecting on what you have learned about working with others in ministry, pray that each of your hearts will grow in these attitudes.

