

## Using this guide

Welcome to the small group discussion guide for *Your Unfinished Business: Find God in Your Circumstances, Serve Others in Theirs*. This guide will help you dig deeper into the book's ideas.

### Here's how you can make the most of the experience:

What's said in the small group stays in the small group. Sharing personal thoughts can be an experience in vulnerability, so help each other by keeping confidences (within legal boundaries of course).

Not everyone will say much. Sometimes, someone may want to listen more than speak, so don't create expectations that everyone has to speak all the time.

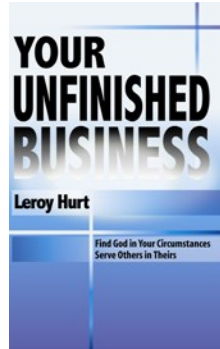
But don't monopolize the discussion either. At times silence can be a useful time for people to think things through.

### If you're leading the discussion:

The guide progresses from awareness to application, beginning with awareness activities to warm-up and culminating with practical application.

This guide refers to the New American Standard translation for consistency with the book.

Feel free to tailor the material to the needs of the group.



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What's the book about? The number one question we have to answer is how to integrate faith and ideals into daily living. And the number one challenge for leaders is how to help people answer that question.

Our unfinished business too often seems a matter of figuring out what to do with our lives when it should be about fulfilling what we know our purpose to be. Stewardship as a way of life is how we can get from one to the other, and stewardship of our circumstances is the starting point.

Stewardship of our circumstances isn't only about what we do with our money, although that's what we often hear. Nor is it about positive thinking. Instead, it's how we integrate our faith and ideals into daily living, turning our circumstances into tools working toward a greater good. And that greater good is to turn them into beacons directing others to the God who calls everyone to Himself.

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

***YOUR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:  
FIND GOD IN YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES,  
SERVE OTHERS IN THEIRS***

## Chapter 1 You have unfinished business



## Consider

“We are strange beings, we seem to go free, but we go in chains--chains of training, custom, convention, association, environment--in a word, Circumstance--and against these bonds the strongest of us struggle in vain.”

Mark Twain

How much control do you think farmers have over conditions affecting their livelihoods? How do they function under those conditions?

What are some examples of viewing circumstances as the source of happiness?

When you were a child, what promises did you make to your parents if only they would give you what you sorely wanted? How did it turn out?

## Understand

Read the key verse below.

What are some examples of how God has made this verse real in people's lives?

How can knowledge of God's purposes be a source of confidence?

Follow up:

Read Romans 8:35. Can Christians expect comfort and prosperity? Why shouldn't Christians be exempt?

Read Romans 8:37-38. What therefore should be the source of our confidence?

## Apply

“You *can* control your circumstances...You control your circumstances the way you control something entrusted to you. When you understand your relationship with the one who gives you something to care for, the sense of responsibility that orders your priorities, and the results expected from you, your circumstances will work for a greater good rather than work you over.”

- Chapter 1

What burden do you feel for doing something greater or more meaningful?

What direction do your circumstances seem to be taking you?

How *have* you typically responded to your circumstances?

How *will* you now respond to your circumstances?

**Before your group meets:**  
**Read Chapter 1: You Have Unfinished Business, pp. 1-5**

**Key verse.** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are *called according to His purpose* (Romans 8:28, NASB).