

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.

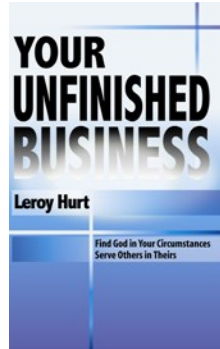
But don't monopolize the discussion either. At times silence can be a useful time for people to think things through.

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 2 Become God's friend to take up your unfinished business



Find out more at www.YourUnfinishedBusiness.net | Dig deeper at www.C-scapeBlogazine.net | Join the movement at YourUnfinishedBusiness.ning.net

Consider

“Caterpillar: Who are YOU?”

Alice: This was not an encouraging opening for a conversation. I -- I hardly know, sir, just at present -- at least I know who I was when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then.”

Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll

“Who are you? Who, who, who, who?”

Who Are You, The Who (CSI theme)

How have you changed over the years?

What are some of humanity’s greatest accomplishments? What are some of the positive impacts of those accomplishments? What are some negative consequences of those accomplishments?

How do people describe the difference between human achievement and God’s expectations?

Understand

Read the key verse below.

What does it mean to be “in Christ”? How much more is involved than acknowledging Jesus as someone special or as a great teacher?

How different do you think humans are from animals? How different from other humans would be the “new creature” in this verse?

Follow up:

Read II Corinthians 5:18, which says this is possible because God “reconciled” us to Himself. Why did God have to be the one to do the reconciling?

Verse 18 also gave Christians the ministry of reconciliation. What are ways this can happen in your world?

Apply

“God makes you His friend to present you with your unfinished business, turning you into a new person different from what you were before. Not only does becoming God’s friend uncover a desire to pursue the unfinished business He originally designed into you, the circumstances in your life develop you into the kind of friend He wants you to be.”

- Chapter 2

How would you respond to those who say God is satisfied if their good deeds outweigh the bad?

How would you answer someone who thinks Christ was a great teacher only?

Whom do you say is Jesus Christ? If you think Jesus is the Son of God, how should you act?

Before your group meets:

Read Chapter 2: Become God’s Friend, pp. 7–21

Key verse. If anyone is in Christ, he is *a new creature* (II Corinthians 5:17, NASB).