

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.

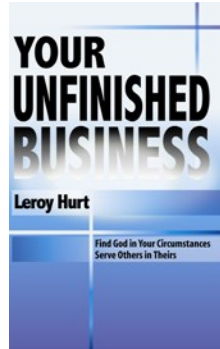
But don't monopolize the discussion either. At times silence can be a useful time for people to think things through.

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 3 BOASTS and character beacons



**Character beacons help us
light the way for others**

Consider

“Pro bono (prō bō'nō). adj. Done without compensation for the public good: a lawyer's pro bono work. [Latin *prō bonō* (*publicō*), for the (public) good : *prō*, for + *bonō*, ablative of *bonum*, the good.]”

Dictionary.com

“With great power comes great responsibility.”

Spiderman (tagline)

Why do you suppose wealthy people create philanthropic foundations?

Describe some situations in which a professional like a lawyer might provide free services.

To what life situations might the *Spiderman* quotation apply?

Understand

Read the key verse below.

What circumstances make you feel like you've been given much?

How do you think you should handle favorable circumstances?

Follow up:

Read Luke 12:36-39. Can you expect life to be easy if you have plenty? Is it reasonable to expect stable and calm circumstances all the time?

Read Luke 12:42-47. How would favorable circumstances be like being given treasure or benefits? How could you use favorable circumstances like treasure or benefits?

Apply

“Boasting means something different in the Bible, revolving around inadequacy for a given task. Biblical boasting means giving all credit to God so others can see Him in your circumstances. And when they can see God in your circumstances, they'll begin to look for Him in their own, a step toward their becoming God's friend themselves .”

- Chapter 3

What favorable circumstances are you experiencing that can become blessings? What greater spiritual responsibility can come from this?

What negative circumstances have turned into occasions for greater spiritual responsibility?

Are you confronted with a choice that appeals to your desire to do things God's way? What will you do to ensure you make the right decision?

Before your group meets:

Read the Character Beacons (Blessings and Opportunity) section of Chapter 3, pp. 25-34

Key verse. From everyone *who has been given much*, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more (Luke 12:48, NASB).