

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.

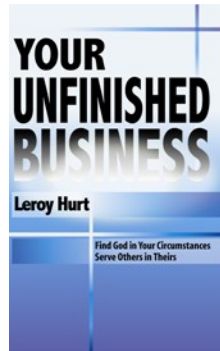
But don't monopolize the discussion either. At times silence can be a useful time for people to think things through.

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.



Available through
www.YourUnfinishedBusiness.net

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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.

Leroy Hurt

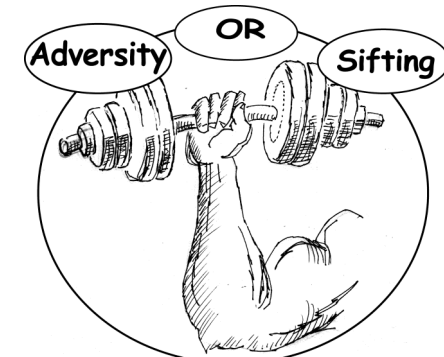
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DISCUSSION GUIDE

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

Chapter 3 BOASTS and character builders



**Character Builders Strengthen
you for Greater Service**

Consider

“I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much.”

Mother Teresa

“What doesn't kill you makes you wish it had.”

Anonymous

Is it legitimate to feel life is unfair?

Describe a time when someone's example during hard times inspired you.

Describe a favorite example of a courageous stand.

Describe a time when you improved because you had been chastened.

Understand

Read the key verse below.

Recall the character beacons you considered previously. How can trials become blessings?

What is it about trials that creates endurance? Why wouldn't trials always defeat you?

Follow up:

Read James 1:4. What is the relationship between endurance and perfection?

Read James 1:5-11. Notice the verses discuss wisdom and humility before returning to trials in verse 12. How would wisdom and humility be related to trials and endurance?

Apply

“Adversity and sifting are like polishing glass and metal. The craftsman subjects the material to treatments like heating and grinding to turn them into useful products. At the end, the materials reflect the image of whoever looks at them. That's the effect adversity and sifting have on your life. God, the master craftsman, wants to turn you into a polished vessel that reflects His image.”

- Chapter 3

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

What adversity can you expect to encounter? What can you do to prepare to help others?

What hard times can you expect for living out your faith? How can you prepare so you can turn hard times into blessings?

Before your group meets:

Read the Character Builders (Adversity and Sifting) section of Chapter 3, pp. 34-51

Key verse. Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (James 1:2-3, NASB).