

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.

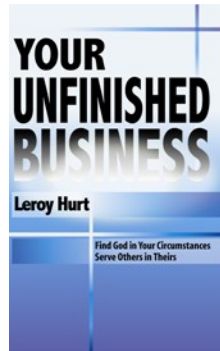
But don't monopolize the discussion either. At times silence can be a useful time for people to think things through.

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

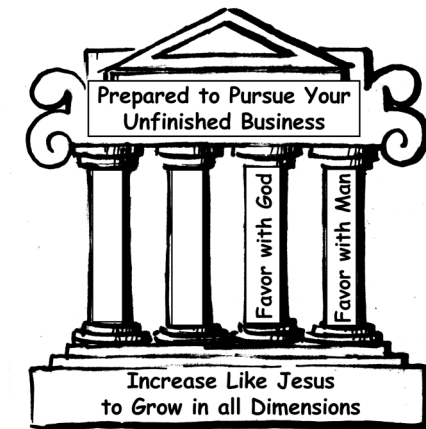
www.YourUnfinishedBusiness.net

LeroyHurt@YourUnfinishedBusiness.net

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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

Chapter 5 Jesus' life and favor with God and man



Consider

“Duty, Honor, Country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail; to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.”

General Douglas MacArthur

It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.

A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens

By what ideals do you navigate your life?

Do you try to emulate those you admire?

In what ways can commitment to your ideals influence others' lives?

Understand

Read the key verse below.

Which is more important, pleasing other people or pleasing God?

Why do you suppose trying to please other people keeps you from serving God well?

Why do you suppose trying to please other people ultimately hurts them?

Follow up:

Read Galatians 1:6-9. What was happening to those who listened to pleasing messages?

Read Galatians 1:11-14. Why did Paul think in verse 12 that he grew more in favor with God than during his time as a Pharisee in verses 13-14?

Apply

“...giving God the lever and fulcrum, that is, control over your life, ultimately allows Him to turn you into the lever and fulcrum He'll use to move others.”

- Chapter 5

What will you do to reorient your time toward spiritual growth?

What will you do in your family to earn the right to be heard?

What will you do in your community to earn the right to be heard?

What will you do in your workplace or school to earn the right to be heard?

Before your group meets:

Read the Favor section of Chapter 5, pp. 113–146

Key verse. For am I now seeking the *favor of men, or of God*? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10 NASB).