

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.

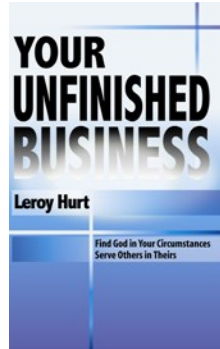
But don't monopolize the discussion either. At times silence can be a useful time for people to think things through.

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 6 Become God's blessing to others by becoming a servant



Consider

“Blessed is the servant who loves his brother as much when he is sick and useless as when he is well and an be of service to him. And blessed is he who loves his brother as well when he is afar off as when he is by his side, and who would say nothing behind his back he might not, in love, say before his face.”

Saint Francis of Assisi

What do you think happens when a famous person walks into a room?

If you were a person with wealth and political power, how would you feel about that kind of treatment?

What does it mean to feel a sense of entitlement? Have you felt that way?

What rights do you think slaves had in the Roman Empire?

Understand

Read the key verse below.

What do you think it means to exist in the form of God?

Was Jesus entitled to equality with God? Did He have a sense of entitlement about it? What phrase describes Jesus attitude about His entitlement?

Follow up:

Read Philippians 2:5. Does Paul think imitating Jesus’ attitude is too hard for us?

Read Philippians 2:8. How did Jesus act in His human form? What privileges did He take?

Apply

“The degree to which others see love in you is the degree to which they see you as a servant. Like the wind, they can’t see love, but like the wind’s effects, they can see servanthood. Jesus assured His followers, “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (James 13:34, 35). That’s the quality that sets you apart, and servanthood is the visible evidence of that quality. In fact, it’s the only way your life will have an impact on others.”

- Chapter 6

In what areas of life do you feel a sense of entitlement? How do you think it affects those around you?

What experiences have shaped your attitude toward entitlement?

What areas of your life require humbling yourself?

Before your group meets:

Read Chapter 6: God’s Blessing, pp. 147–157

Key verse. Although He [Jesus Christ] existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but *emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant* (Philippians 2:6-7a, NASB).