

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.

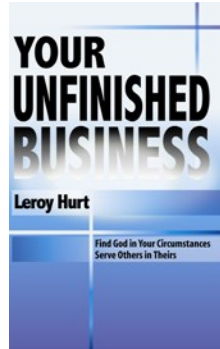
But don't monopolize the discussion either. At times silence can be a useful time for people to think things through.

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
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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

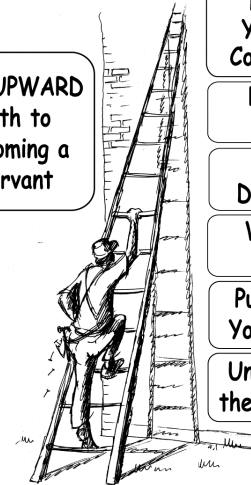
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DISCUSSION GUIDE

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

Chapter 7 Becoming a servant is an UPWARD path

The UPWARD
Path to
Becoming a
Servant



Devote
Yourself
Completely

Reflect
Deeply

Act
Decisively

Wait on
God

Purpose in
Your Heart

Understand
the Situation

Consider

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.”
Robert Frost

“He who moves not forward, goes
backward.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Of all the advice you’ve received about
success, what has made the most
sense to you?

How has your definition of success
changed over time?

What are some examples of how
coaches systematically take athletes
from beginning to advanced skill lev-
els?

What are some examples of how edu-
cators take students from basic to ad-
vanced levels of knowledge?

Understand

Read the key verse below.

John the Baptist made the statement in
answer to his supporters who told him
of Jesus’ growing fame and influence.
How do you think John’s supporters
defined success?

What do you think the “I” includes that
John said must decrease? Don’t just
say “everything.” What are some exam-
ples from specific areas of life.

How does advice you’ve received
about success compare with John the
Baptist’s idea of success?

Follow up:

John said he was not the Christ but
was sent before Him (v. 28). What do
you think John was supposed to do?
How is this a model for your own life?

Apply

“Without a systematic understanding of
your development, it’s hard to appreci-
ate the importance of continually devel-
oping and growing. Because you have
free will, it’s tempting to choose not to
keep moving upward because it takes
less effort. But if you’re not moving up-
ward, you’re sliding back down “

- Chapter 7

What must decrease in your life so Je-
sus Christ can increase?

How is God showing you what areas of
your life must decrease?

What can you do to get started?

What results have you seen where Je-
sus has increased in your life?

Before your group meets:

Read the introductory section of Chapter 7: UPWARD, pp. 159-161

Key verse. He [Jesus Christ] must increase, but I [John the Baptist] must decrease (John 3:30, NASB).