

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.

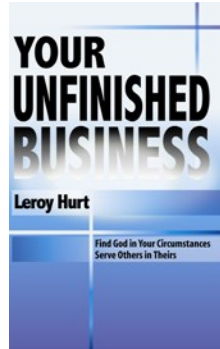
But don't monopolize the discussion either. At times silence can be a useful time for people to think things through.

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

Amazon.com

Bookstand Publishing

Local bookstores

Contact for speaking at

www.YourUnfinishedBusiness.net

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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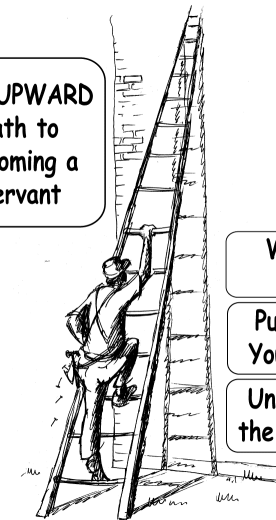
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DISCUSSION GUIDE

***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



Wait on
God

Purpose in
Your Heart

Understand
the Situation

Consider

“To understand reality is not the same as to know about outward events.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A man was on his hands and knees under a lamp post outside a tunnel. A passerby asked him what he was doing. “Looking for my keys,” was the reply. “Did you lose them around here?” “No, I lost them in the tunnel, but it’s too dark in there to look.”

Anonymous

What does a business do to understand the competition it faces in the marketplace?

How do you think the military instills a sense of mission into its members?

Do you sometimes think you’re looking in the wrong places for answers about what to do about your sense of unfinished business?

Understand

Read the key verse below.

Why do you think wisdom is the chief element of effective decision-making?

What do you think makes God the source for wisdom?

Follow up:

Read verses 2-4. What must you understand about your circumstances? What will be the outcome of a sound understanding of your circumstances?

Read verses 6-8. Asking for wisdom “in faith without any doubting” means being focused and staying the course. Is it reasonable to expect an immediate answer from God? Why do you suppose you might have to wait? What is the outcome if you don’t stay the course in seeking wisdom from God?

Apply

“...knowing and following God’s specific will...gives you a deep impact on the world. Following His general will, however, gives you a broad perspective, allowing you to affect people in the common areas of life.”

- Chapter 7

How will you follow through on a commitment to see from God’s perspective in order to understand your situation?

What disciplines must you improve to strengthen the purpose in your heart to follow God’s general will?

How will you tell yourself truth while you’re waiting on God to reveal His specific will for you?

Before your group meets:

Read the Understand, Purpose, and Wait sections of Chapter 7, pp. 161-175

Key verse. ...if any of you lacks *wisdom*, let him ask of God (James 1:5 NASB).