

## 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.

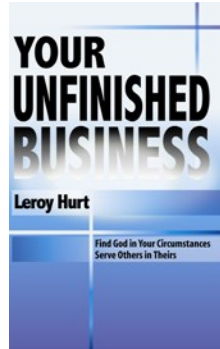
But don't monopolize the discussion either. At times silence can be a useful time for people to think things through.

### 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.

**Leroy Hurt**

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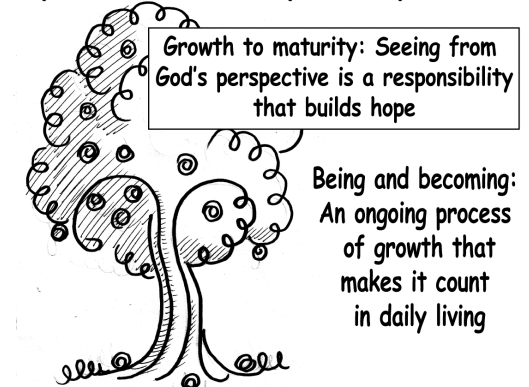
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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

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

## Chapter 8 Being and becoming

The Fruits of your labor:  
Becoming God's blessing to others  
yields results compelled by love



Where it starts: Becoming God's  
friend is a relationship rooted in faith

## Consider

“Come, my friends. 'Tis not too late to seek a newer world...for my purpose holds to sail beyond the sunset...strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.”

“Ulysses,” Alfred, Lord Tennyson

What professions require continuing development even after awarding credentials? What are some examples of continuing development activities?

What do athletes do to get a competitive edge in their sports?

How do you stay current in your discipline?

What motivates you to keep growing and excelling?

## Understand

Read the key verse below.

What makes a tree firmly planted?  
What does this do for the tree?

Where does the tree's nourishment come from?

Follow up:

Read Psalm 1: 2. What is the righteous man's nourishment? How is it like streams of water?

Read Psalm 1:3. How can you tell the quality of a tree's fruit? Does this mean you can expect comfort and prosperity?

## Apply

“Pursuing your unfinished business is a state of being and becoming. It's a state of “being” because God looks at you as if you already achieved the expectations He has for you while He's developing you into the friend He wants you to be...But it's also a state of “becoming”: while God looks at you as if you were already the friend He wants you to be, He also sets you on a path to become the kind of friend He knows you can be.”

- Chapter 8

Think of what makes a tree firmly planted. What must you do to be firmly planted yourself? What must you do to grow?

How have you been equipped to continually turn your circumstances into beacons that point others to God?

How are you still being equipped to continually turn your circumstances into beacons that point others to God?

**Before your group meets:**

**Read Chapter 8: Being and Becoming, pp. 193-195**

**Key verse.** He [the righteous man] will be like a tree *firmly planted* by streams of water (Psalm 1:3, NASB).