

FAITH  
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ENTREPRENEUR

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Ministry  
In Word

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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*This guide is intended for personal reflection and to help facilitate a meaningful group discussion. Take a moment to watch the video and read over the guide before your group meeting. Be prepared with some personal examples to help encourage discussion. If helpful, before you meet, print out or email a copy of this guide to all those who will attend the meeting.*

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# Ministry In Word

## RELATIONAL BY DESIGN

Genuine, authentic friendships are foundational to our Ministry in Word. Without it, we haven't earned the trust and respect to share the love of Christ with them.

1 Peter 3:15 has this to say, *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"*

We tend to focus exclusively on the part about always being prepared to give an answer. But sometimes we forget about the last part of this verse—"do this with gentleness and respect." This is key. Could it be that the closest thing for us to experience God on Earth is through relationship? When we are face to face with one another, we are face to face with our Heavenly Father.

This divine interaction is possible only through respect. And respect is born through relationship. So we build off of that. And while we are called to give an answer for the hope we have only in Jesus, building a strong relationship of trust and mutual respect is built by listening to one another.

Not listening simply to respond. But listening to learn. Actually hearing what someone has to say. And humbling ourselves to the very real possibility that we have just as much to learn from someone else as they do from us.

How does that look for you, for your company, and for the interactions you have today? Let's talk more about Ministry in Word.



### GUIDING SCRIPTURE:

*"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" —1 Peter 3:15*

**GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

ACTION	FOCUS	ESTIMATED TIME
<b>Welcome</b>	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> What burdens are you carrying? What do you need to put aside today to be present and here to support your growth and contribute meaningfully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 seconds around the circle</li> <li>• Verbalize what to put aside.</li> <li>• Option to write and put in a basket.</li> </ul>	10 mins
<b>Video Session</b>	<p><b>INTRODUCTION:</b> We are entrepreneurs who realize that our own brokenness is an outstanding opportunity to share the reason for the hope that we have—it's a chance to lead with a limp. We understand that sharing "why" we do what we do is effective leadership when done with gentleness and respect. Today, we're studying the mark of Ministry in Word. McCoy's Building Supply will be our spotlight story.</p>	15 mins
<b>Group Discussion</b>	<p><b>Group Discussion:</b> Consider this quote from the film, "Reflecting God's goodness is relationship with each other." How does that look for you, for your company, and for the interactions you have today? How was this done by McCoy's Building Supply?</p> <p>Ask each person to share and incorporate any learnings from the video. Here are a few questions to get you started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How can experiencing failure help us in the long run?</b></li> <li>• <b>When has failure made you better in your work? How has failing at certain ventures helped you rely more on the Lord?</b></li> </ul> <p>Facilitator asks if any members would like to share an action they are committing to take this month based on the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group members share any practice they would like to start or discontinue in their personal life of business via Zoom chat or post-it note</li> <li>• Other members agree to pray for and hold them accountable..</li> </ul>	45-60 mins
<b>(Optional) Business Spotlight</b>	<p>One individual presents information on their business venture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One person shares about their business model, stage and scope</li> <li>• Participants ask questions and get to know more</li> </ul>	10 mins
<b>Prayer</b>	<p>The group wraps in a time of prayer and encouragement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popcorn prayer—Designate one person to begin the prayer and another person to end the prayer. Then allow space and moments of silence for people to pray as they feel led.</li> <li>• Zoom rooms or small groups for prayer</li> </ul>	10 mins

## Discussion Questions

As Jessica mentioned, we want our investors, employees, and customers to believe that we have our business under control. But in the process of trying to manage it all without fail, we end up exhausted. Here are a few more questions to help your group go even deeper in discussion.

### *WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING ON TO?*

People have no concept of who we really are on the inside—our cares, concerns, hopes, and dreams. We soon become a walking shell of a human with paper-thin personalities that we've carefully constructed to keep the world at arms length.

- **In what ways have you had an attitude of relying on yourself to carry all of your responsibilities instead of relying on God?**

### *WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?*

We cannot hold anything back—from God or the people we love and trust. Sometimes that leads us to even being vulnerable.

- **What does it take for you to really get to know your customers and employees? And in turn, for them to know the real you?**

### *RELATIONSHIPS AT WORK*

Meagan McCoy Jones stated that "Reflecting God's goodness is relationship with each other." In order to reflect God's goodness, we must be spending time with God, seeing his goodness, noticing him at work and then taking the time to notice others, to hear what is not being said and to care for them.

- **Are you so busy that you're sacrificing your own time with Jesus? How can you change that?**
- **Are you working with others from a place of relationship, or do you simply see them as a client or employee?**

## 5 Ideas to Explore the Mark Further

There's no limit to the ways you can explore the Marks of a Faith Driven Entrepreneur. What we provide below are five ideas we think might lead each one of us to an even greater understanding of our God-given call to create.

1. **Journal:** Write down a few ways you could lead with love. What are some ways you can ensure that the people around you feel loved through your work and decisions?
2. **Interact:** This month, take the time to interact with a few employees, business partners, or customers that you normally wouldn't engage with. Try to get to know them better, understand who they are as people, and what is important to them. Show genuine interest knowing that each person has a story. Endeavor to know their story and, when asked, to share yours.
3. **Consider:** Take some time this week to share a few failures with other entrepreneurs and business owners you know. Consider incorporating this kind of conversation into your normal routine.
4. **Act Differently:** Try your best to work from a place of acceptance this month. Consider your motivations when making decisions and try to let love for others be part of your priorities.
5. **Learn From Others:** Visit [faithdrivenentrepreneur.org](http://faithdrivenentrepreneur.org) to learn more or join the conversation by listening to our weekly Faith Driven Entrepreneur Podcast.

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We are a global movement dedicated to gathering one million Christ-following entrepreneurs and equipping them so they can fulfill their call to create. Currently, thousands of Faith Driven Entrepreneurs from more than 88 different countries are involved in groups like this. More are signing every day.

**Is someone in your group ready to help this movement continue to grow? They can apply to lead a Faith Driven Entrepreneur Group online:**

[faithdrivenentrepreneur.org/lead-a-group](http://faithdrivenentrepreneur.org/lead-a-group)