

A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, golden-brown grass or grain. In the middle ground, a dark brown barn is visible on the right, and a tall, thin structure with a circular top, possibly a windmill or a water tower, stands in the center. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

# **Vision for Ministry**

## **Participant's Manual**

## Vision for Ministry

### Participant's Manual

© Gospel Outreach Ministries, 2008  
ph +61 2 9980 9913 fax +61 2 9980 9914  
info@gospeloutreach.com.au www.gospeloutreach.com.au

This material is copyright. Churches and groups registered for Vision for Ministry are permitted to photocopy this material for use in running their meetings.

## **Vision for Ministry - Participant's Manual**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to our Vision for Ministry meeting. Similar meetings are being held in churches all over Australia as a part of the Vision for Ministry initiative.

The purpose of our time together is to help you think through whether you should be seriously considering vocational ministry.

Of course, all Christians are called to a life time of ministry. However, there is a great need for men and women who are willing to commit all or a part of their working week to some form of vocational gospel ministry.

### **Bible Study - Matthew 9:35-38**

Read Matthew 9:35-38. What is the context of this passage in Matthew's account of Jesus' ministry? What are some of the events leading up to the passage in chapters 8 and 9?

Verse 35 gives a summary of Jesus' ministry. What are the key features of his ministry?

In verse 36, what is Jesus' response to the crowds? Why does he use the phrase "like sheep without a shepherd" to describe their condition (cf Matt 2:6; Jn 10:11-18)?

What is our response to the “crowds” of people around us? Do we see them as being harassed and helpless?

In verse 37 when Jesus looks at the “harassed and helpless” crowds he doesn’t despair. Rather he sees an abundant and plentiful spiritual harvest. If the harvest is ready and waiting, what is the thing that is needed? You may also like to read Romans 10:12-15.

What does this say about God’s role and our role in sharing the gospel with people?

In verse 38 what are we called to do?

Immediately following this passage in chapter 10 what happens?

What is your response to this passage? What are you challenged to do as a result?

# **Gospel Ministry - Some Practicalities**

## **Introduction**

## **The Need**

## **The Options**

- Time
- Support
- Role
- Setting

## **The Requirements**

- Character (eg 1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).
- Gifts (cf Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4:11-13; 1 Pet 4:10-11).
- Availability

## **Training**

- Areas of Training
  - Personal character and godliness (cf 1 Tim 4:7-8).
  
  - Biblical knowledge and theology (cf 2 Tim 3:14-17).
  
  - Gifts and skills (cf 1 Cor 14:1; 2 Tim 1:6-7).
  
- Training Options
  - Local church (see Eph 4:11-13).
  
  - Para-church ministries
  
  - Missionary organisations
  
  - Theological/Bible college

In choosing a college make sure that:-

- The college views the Bible as God's word and faithfully teaches the Bible.
- The college offers courses that are relevant to the particular area of ministry you are interested in.

## **Where to From Here**

- There are a number of things you can do to work out whether vocational ministry is where you should be headed.
  - Pray and speak to other Christians.
  - Read the Bible - especially the New Testament. As you read note down what the Bible says about ministry.
  - Get involved in ministry. Try some ministries that you have never tried before.
  - Explore options for further training. Attend some Bible college open days.
  - Speak to someone from a missionary organisation or para-church ministry about options for ministry.
  - Attend a conference on ministry. This may be one run by your denomination or by a Bible college or by a ministry training organisation.
  - Read books on ministry. Biographies are especially inspiring and helpful.
  - Pray some more!

## **Testimony**

## **Personal Reflection**

Spend about fifteen minutes by yourself praying and reflecting on what we have covered so far. If you are not already involved in vocational ministry, honestly ask yourself before God whether it is an option for you. Jot down any thoughts that you have.

## **Small Groups**

Break up into small groups of about 3 or 4, ideally with people who know you. Spend about twenty minutes sharing some of your thoughts from the personal reflection time with one another. Then spend about fifteen minutes praying for one another and the things you have discussed.

## **Conclusion and Feedback**

Please spend some time filling in the feedback sheet and hand it in when you leave. Thank you for attending.

## Vision for Ministry - Feedback

We would greatly appreciate your feedback and comments on our time together.

Name: .....

Work Phone: (    ) ..... Home Phone: (    ) .....

Email: .....

Bible Study - Matthew 9:35-38

Gospel Ministry - Some Practicalities

Testimony

Personal Reflection and Small Groups

Did the material covered help to clarify your thinking about ministry?

Did the meeting challenge you to think further about the possibility of vocational ministry?

Would you like to meet with someone to further discuss options for ministry?

Is it worth running a similar meeting again? If so, are there any particular areas of ministry or issues that you would like to see addressed?

Any other general comments?

Can you please hand in the feedback sheet when you leave. Thank you for attending.