CHAMPION.CHURCH | AUGUST 2025 | GROUP STUDY GUIDE SERIES: **TRAINED**/ WEEK ONE: **"THE MINISTRY INSIDE YOU"** + 5-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Introduction

Welcome to this week's small group! We're beginning a brand-new study based on our new Sunday series called TRAINED.

This isn't just another Bible study—this is about discovering the ministry God has already placed inside you!

We're here to move from sitting to serving. From saved to sent. From watching to walking in the fullness of your purpose.

Let's dive into the first message of the series: 'The Ministry Inside You' based on Ephesians 4:11–12.

Core Scripture & Word Study

Ephesians 4:11–12 (ESV):

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to <u>equip</u> <u>his people for works of service</u>, so that the <u>body of Christ may be built up</u>."

Key Word Breakdowns:

"He Gave" – edōken: Christ appointed with authority and

intention.

"Equip" – katartismos: Train, mend, align, prepare for full

function

"His People" - hagios: Every believer—not the elite few

"Works of Service" - ergon diakonias: Ranging in meaning from:

- Spiritual/biblical teaching (Ac 6:4)
- to the practical giving of provisions, supplies, support, and finances to those in need (2Co 9:12)
- To ministry, service, contribution, distribution, help, mission, preparations to be made.

God's Structure for Building His Church:

"I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."— Jesus. Matthew 16:18

- 1) Christ **Gives Leaders** \rightarrow 2) Leaders **Equip The Saints** \rightarrow
- 3) Saints **Do The Work**. \rightarrow 4) The Body Is **Built Up**

The Hidden Violin

✓ In 2007, world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell played unnoticed in a D.C. subway. His \$3.5 million Stradivarius didn't change the fact that few stopped. Why? Because greatness doesn't always come in familiar packaging.

Just like many believers today—carrying God-given ministry gifts—yet unrecognized because they haven't been trained or empowered.

Discussion Questions:

- What gifts might be lying dormant in your life?
- How has familiarity with your surroundings kept you from realizing your value?

Point 1: You Were Appointed Before You Were Aware

Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV):

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Application: What if you're not waiting to be called—you're being reminded of the call you've been running from?

Ephesians 2:10

"For <u>we are</u> God's handiwork, <u>created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God</u> <u>prepared in advance for us to do</u>."

Discussion Questions:

- What does it change when you realize God appointed you to do works of service?
- What assignment might you be delaying because of doubt or fear?

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Point 2: Ministry Isn't a Title—It's a Towel

John 13:14–15 (NIV):

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Key Insights:

- Leadership is servanthood.
- Humility precedes promotion.

Application: If you're too big for a towel, you're too small for a title.

Discussion Questions:

- How can you serve someone this week?
- What does this example from Jesus reveal about the heart of true ministry?

Point 3: You're Not Here to Be Fed—You're Here to Be Formed

Hebrews 5:12 (NIV):

"In fact, though <u>by this time you ought to be teachers</u>, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!"

Scripture References:

Romans 12:4–8 (NLT)

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.

If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."

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2 Timothy 2:2 "And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful people, who will be able to teach others also."	
"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a ho possession, that you may declare the praises of hin into his wonderful light."	-

Application: Consumer or Producer? Are you spiritually overfed from consumption but underdeveloped from inactivity?

Discussion Questions:

- What spiritual gift or area of service is stirring inside you?
- How can you start training and forming that gift?

Reflection:

"What if the reason you're unfulfilled isn't because your life isn't exciting enough—but because you're not doing the one thing you were saved to do: SERVE GOD —the work of the ministry?"

Group Challenge:

- Pick one area to serve in the next 30 days.
- Write out what "being trained" looks like for you this week.
- Share one reason why you feel compelled to step forward and be used by God to serve others.

5-Day Devotional: The Ministry Inside of You

Day 1 – Appointed Before You Were Aware

Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV) – "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

You didn't stumble into existence—you were strategically formed by God. Before your parents had a plan, God had a purpose. Today, take time to reflect on this truth: You've been appointed for something significant.

Reflect: Are you living like someone with divine purpose? What would change if you saw yourself the way God sees you?

A Prayer: Father, thank You for knowing me and appointing me before I ever knew You. Open my eyes to Your purpose for my life.

Day 2 – The Work of Ministry Is for Everyone

Ephesians 4:11–12 (ESV) – "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Ministry is not reserved for the platform. It's not just for pastors or leaders—it's for every believer. God gave leaders to prepare *you* to serve, influence, and build.

*Reflect: What are the areas in your life where ministry is already possible? Home? Work? Church?

A Prayer: Lord, help me not just attend church, but BE the church. Show me the ministry You've placed in me.

Day 3 - Ministry Isn't a Title—It's a Towel

John 13:14–15 (NIV) – "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Jesus modeled leadership through humility. He picked up a towel, not a throne. He served His disciples before sending them. True ministry begins when we stop asking, 'Who will serve me?' and start asking, 'Whom can I serve?'

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** Reflect: Is there a relationship or place where God is asking you to lead by serving?

A Prayer: Jesus, help me to lead like You—by serving. Give me the heart of a servant and the strength to follow through.

Day 4 – You Were Built for More Than Milk

Hebrews 5:12 (NIV) – "In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!"

Many Christians stay in consumption mode—receiving, absorbing, learning—but never moving toward maturity. God's goal for you is growth. You were made to teach, lead, and multiply what's been poured into you.

* Reflect: Have you gotten spiritually comfortable? What "next step" is God prompting in your growth?

A Prayer: Father, mature me. Move me beyond spiritual milk into a life that feeds and leads others.

Day 5 – It's Time to Activate What's Inside

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV) – "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

You are chosen. You are royal. You are holy. Not because of what you've done, but because of who He says you are. Now it's time to step into the ministry inside of you. You've been equipped with gifts. You've been trained by experience. Now it's time to walk in it.

Reflect: What excuses have you been making that are keeping you from ministry?

A Prayer: God, I surrender my fear, excuses, and insecurity. Activate the ministry You've placed inside me.