

ZŌÉ

NOUN; GREEK: LIFE (SPIRITUAL & PHYSICAL)

SEEK / SERVE / GROW



VISION FOR ZÔÉ

Jesus came to give life and life to the full, and the only way we find that life is in complete and wholehearted pursuit of Him. ZÔÉ is a year of exactly that, pursuing Jesus. A community of people committed to each other, and to seeking God, His life and His calling.

We believe that there are things you can do now, that will impact your life for the next 10, 20, 30 years and beyond, and it begins with putting a year aside to seek God, serve His church, and be transformed in the process. ZÔÉ is a year of allowing your character and lifestyle to be shaped so that who you are after the year will be different to who you were before. We've seen many people go on this journey, and it's always incredible to see what God can do when we make ourselves available.

We know that during the year God will shape you and make you into more of who He's calling you to be. It's a year of surrender, and doesn't come without sacrifice, but is an incredible opportunity to share in a community of people who are all passionately pursuing God and being transformed by Him.

┌ We ask God to give you complete knowledge of His will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honour and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all His glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father.' Colossians 1:9-12 └

SEEK / SERVE / GROW

More than anything else, our heart for ZŌÉ is that it would be a community of people passionately pursuing Jesus, spending time with Him and seeking Him wholeheartedly. That has to come before anything else, and that is what we're most excited about.

Jesus came to serve us and now calls each one of us to give our lives to doing the same. So the year is tailored towards serving God in a variety of ways and stepping out of your comfort zone. So often, that's how God shapes us the most.

And like we've already mentioned, we want it to be a year that changes lives. A year where people grow, and finish genuinely different to how they started. A year where we place ourselves before God and allow Him to be the one that shapes us, and helps us to become more like Jesus in every area of our lives.

FUNDING

Unlike most programmes of this type, we won't be expecting you to pay anything for simply taking part in the year. It's completely free. We'll cover all the costs of the course, but having said that, it's up to you to take responsibility for ensuring you'll be able to cover your expenses for the year such as living costs.

In previous years, those on the year have survived financially by working two or three days a week, depending on the rate of pay in their job and their fixed outgoings. If you're at all concerned about this, it might be worth chatting with someone who's done the year before to find out how they managed financially.

We don't want people to find themselves in a bad financial situation or to be irresponsible with debt, however, it's fair to say that those who've done the year can testify to how God has never let them go hungry and has been wonderfully generous with His provision. So definitely don't let money be a reason to not apply. We'd recommend that you plan to save money now before you start the year. If you're currently a student, it might be a good idea to get a full-time holiday job over the summer to get a head start! Whatever your circumstances, it's important you make sure as much as you can, that you have the means to support yourself through the year. But, do ask us if you have any questions or concerns.

In terms of a job, we'd encourage you to work part-time outside the church, as you'll be spending much of the year in a predominantly Christian environment. Spending time outside the church context gives an opportunity to maintain and develop relationships with people who don't know Jesus, and allows you to practice and share some of the things you're learning throughout the year.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

What will you give?

Quite simply, almost a whole year of your life – your time, your energy, your gifting, your passion, your loyalty... you. Giving around 20 hours of your week to the church (mostly Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays) for eleven months from the beginning of September 2018 to the end of July 2019.

What will the year give you?

- Time to invest in your relationship with God, be shaped by Him and grow in vision for how He might use your life.
- An amazing community of people to be a part of where you support, encourage and challenge each other.
- The chance to serve the church, serve the community and serve those around you.
- A good deal of staff time, including teaching from different members of staff.
- Opportunities to get involved in a wide range of areas within the life of the church, particularly focussed on your stream.
- The chance to see how a large, growing church lives and works – things that you may not know you're being 'taught' at the time, but things you'll just pick up along the way; things which many people may never see.
- The chance to step outside of your comfort zone through doing the stuff that Jesus did; taking your faith out onto the streets, praying for people, stepping up to take responsibility in your stream and within ZŌÉ as a whole. There'll be plenty of opportunities for you to grow.
- The ZŌÉ team – who are committed to doing all they can to see you transformed throughout the year.

How will you grow spiritually?

We always say to everyone who applies, that you'll get out of the year what you're willing to put into it and every year, we see that play out. If you're up for the challenge and throw yourself into it, you'll have an incredible year. Just like any other area of your character, the development of your spiritual life is down to you. It's down to your own discipline to take the time you have, not just in ZŌÉ, and use it wisely. Take the opportunities you're given, push yourself and more importantly than anything else, keep pursuing Jesus in the secret places of your own life.

We'll absolutely help you where we can. Everyone will be given a mentor to meet up with on a regular basis. This will be someone we consider to be wise, pastoral, spiritually mature, and above all, a role model to encourage you in your relationship with Jesus. You'll meet regularly, and between the two of you, decide how the relationship will work best. It's mainly intended to be a place for you to be encouraged, challenged and to gain a perspective outside of your day-to-day relationships. It's worth mentioning, however, that we'd expect you to be the one chasing your mentor, not the other way round.

In addition, there will be regular reviews with the ZŌÉ team to see how you're doing and to set personal aims for the next few months. In addition, you'll be linked with a member of the ZŌÉ team to help you keep these goals on track. We also offer weekly teaching that'll contribute to your spiritual growth. Aside from the team, you'll spend a lot of time with particular members of staff in the ministry areas you're involved in and report to them for matters relating to your stream.

WHAT'S THE STRUCTURE?

The year is divided into three terms. Each term is designed to allow you to experience serving in many areas in the life of the church and outside. This will be through serving, training, time for worship and ministry, as well as community time as a group.

Thursday

This year, Thursdays are going to be slightly different. You'll always be doing one of two things:

Serving at The Arches – The Arches is a practical resource centre providing furniture, food, clothing and help to those in need. You'll be part of a team that serves in this ministry and will perform a variety of roles from driving the van to project working. The Arches is an amazing thing to be a part of and is often a favourite part of the year for many people.

Streams - Streams are specific areas of ministry within the life of the church that you'll be placed with for the year (e.g. youth, students and young adults, compassion, worship, kids, newcomers). You'll serve this stream area in a variety of ways and from this year, you'll get a lot more time with your stream so that staff members can invest more in you and you can take on more responsibility.

Essentially for the year you're like an extension of the staff team. It may be that you're already heavily involved in a specific area of ministry that you'd like to invest more in or you may want to try something new. We'd recommend that you prayerfully consider which of the above areas you feel most drawn to. If you really can't decide, we'd be more than happy to give you any further information you need about what you can expect from working in each ministry area.

Friday

Friday is the day we spend together as a community. It's a privilege to spend the year with a group of people, all in the same boat and all up for loving and supporting each other. Similarly to The Arches, people often see Friday's as a highlight of the week.

We start the day with breakfast and then have a time of worship and ministry together. Then there's then a morning session, which may involve teaching, sharing, looking at the Bible together, praying for each other, or something similar. At the end of the morning we serve the church by cleaning the warehouse for an hour before gathering together for lunch. Everyone on the year will take it in turns to provide lunch on behalf of the group (the church will reimburse the costs).

The afternoon sessions are generally more practical. This is where we might go out and do a blessing the community project or talk to people about Jesus. This is also when we do key groups (a smaller group on the programme for you to go deeper with and support each other through prayer and friendship).

Saturday

Saturday is usually your day off. With all that you'll be doing it's vital that you get a proper day of rest. We appreciate that some people may have jobs that require them to work on Saturdays. If this is the case, we'd encourage you to make sure you get time off elsewhere in the week. We recommend you spend your Saturdays doing something away from the church environment that you'll enjoy and that will refresh you, as the year is extremely demanding and rest really is essential.

Sunday

As a member of the team, you'll be expected to be at both services on a Sunday. Typically, those on ZŌÉ serve at five of the eight services in a month, in a wide variety of roles. They may be related to an area of ministry you're involved with (e.g. youth, skids, newcomers) or may be a little more general. You'll put a lot of chairs out over the course of the year! But, are all essential to playing their part in the church.

Other commitments

Outside of the normal Thursday to Sunday routine, there'll be other things we'll expect you to prioritise:

- Small Group – as a member of the church, you'll be expected to regularly attend a small group so you can get fully plugged into the church community.
- Serving at evening events – from time to time during the year there will be events such as leaders' meetings and other one-off events that you'll be expected to serve at.
- Mid-week ministries – you may wish to get involved with other ministries that operate on weekday evenings such as youth (Tuesday nights), student small groups or Soup Run (Fridays).
- Study time – everyone will be expected to invest in personal study and time with Jesus, typically a few hours a week. We have a reading list with set texts, plus access to discipleship books and an audio library. You'll also be encouraged to keep a journal through the year to allow you to reflect on what God is doing in you.

- Conferences – you'll have the opportunity to attend various conferences through the year such as the National Leaders' Conference, Dreaming the Impossible and The Cause to Live For. By serving on team at these events, you'll be given free admission.
- Trips away – the year will also provide the opportunity for retreat days together and a ministry trip visiting another church. These are always a really precious time for the ZŌÉ community, so we would ask you to prioritise these dates.

Within the weekly and termly structures, the year will be tailored to you personally and, to a certain extent, the course content will depend on those God brings along.

WHAT NEXT?

Seek God. Pray. Talk to those you love and trust. If it's right for you, this year will be exciting, pivotal, envisioning, challenging and transformational.

To apply for the year, we'd look for committed followers of Jesus who are:

- Members of Trent Vineyard (this would mean being in a small group, serving, attending on Sundays and giving financially in an accountable way) or any other church that shares the values of Trent Vineyard.
- Able, in practical terms, to commit to a year of serving the church and genuinely up for what that might look like.
- In a flexible situation without too many other commitments (as social or family time will be impacted).
- Able to balance and be responsible for their finances.
- Stable and secure, spiritually and mentally.

Please let your small group leader know you're applying for the year, as we'll be in touch with them to support your application.

How to apply:

- Fill in an application form online by Friday 25 May at trentv.org/zoe
- Within a few weeks, we'll invite you to an interview and then let you know within a couple of weeks if we feel it's the right thing for you and whether we'll offer you a place.

We're aware this can all sound a bit formal, but it's important. The application process is our way of ensuring that the year is right for those who want to do it and that expectations on both sides are communicated.

For more information email ollie.ryan@trentvineyard.org

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