



Winchester Vineyard Discipleship Year

Learn / Serve / Grow

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

Vision

The DY is an amazing opportunity to create a discipleship foundation that will set you up for the rest of your life with Jesus. We often say that 'discipleship is systematically rearranging our lives so we're more like Jesus', and a year like this doesn't come without sacrifice. It may well push you out of your comfort zone, but we believe that's how God so often shapes us the most.

Winchester Vineyard Church is a vibrant multi-generational worshipping community with a range of ministries including Life Groups, Alpha, Compassion & Worship as well as a Youth Bus supporting young people's mental health in local schools.



We aim to be a centre of excellence for training and are confident that we can provide a supportive space within which you can learn, serve and grow.

Learn: Through training and teaching you will learn both practical skills for life and faith, and foundational Kingdom truths that will enable you to do what God has called you to do and passionately pursue Jesus above all else.

Serve: Through the opportunities provided this year you will take part in a wide variety of activities, groups, teams & projects, acting as the hands and feet of Jesus, serving God and the people around you.

Grow: Through discipleship we long to see you grow into your true identity in Christ, stepping into the unique call that He has over your life. We want to see you finish genuinely different to how you started!

When is it?

The year begins in September and ends in July, running every week during term time. Most weeks we would expect you to be available 3 days a week, including Sundays.

There will be conferences and events that you attend as part of the DY throughout the year, including the Vineyard National Gathering in April and other ministry specific events.

What does it cost?

Unlike most discipleship programmes there is no charge! At Winchester Vineyard, we understand and appreciate the incredible value that you will bring and we want to invest in you throughout your time with us.

But although we cover the costs of the course, it's up to you to take responsibility for ensuring you'll be able to cover any other expenses for the year, such as living costs. (rent, food, transport etc.)

We would encourage you to find a part-time job that allows you to work two or three days a week so that, alongside your DY commitments, you are still able to take at least one day off in the week. This will also enable you to develop and maintain relationships with people who don't know Jesus yet, and allow you to practice and share some of the things you're learning throughout the year.

Ultimately we trust that God is our good provider and will meet all of our needs. We have seen God provide in creative, miraculous and generous ways for DY students in the past, and we believe He will continue to do the same for you. If you are concerned about how you might finance the year, we would encourage you to talk to a member of the team.

Stories

Chris: “I was expecting to spend my gap year at Church and get closer to God but I got so much more. I have a better grip on what God's calling is for my life and know what steps I need to take next, which were totally different to my plans.”

Nikki: “I really appreciated the opportunity to focus on an area that I was passionate about. I spent time discovering what acting in a just way looks like in a commercial world and what we can do to improve the effects of that for people and our planet.”

Amy: “DY was a great opportunity to explore ministry, whilst also receiving teaching and input from the fab team at Winchester Vineyard.”



What to expect?

Streams

You will spend up to one day a week in your stream. Streams are specific areas of ministry within the life of the church that you'll be placed with for the year eg. youth, compassion, operations, kids, media. You'll serve this stream area in a variety of ways, and as you progress through the year, ministry leaders will invest in you and encourage you to take on more responsibility.

Study Day

Each week there will be a study day with teaching, study time and spotlights. Throughout the year we will read some core books together, with time to discuss them and write up reviews. The spotlight sessions will give you opportunities to practice communicating with others. Each DY student will be expected to produce and present content on their chosen topic of interest which can be delivered in the form of a bible study, a talk or even a workshop. You can be as creative as you want!

Sundays

We believe that a key part of being part of Winchester Vineyard is getting involved and serving on Sundays. These provide a great space to serve and meet lots of others in the church. You will be a part of the children or youth team, and another team of your choice. This could be cafe, venue, welcome, worship, media or connect. All together you will be expected to serve at a minimum of 2 out of 4 services each month.

There will also be additional commitments which range from being part of a life group, to attending training, leadership meetings or weekend events.

Life Groups

Life Groups are a really important part of the church. They are essential in getting involved in the wider church, making new friends and being part of an accountable community. If you are not already part of one, we will help you find a great group to join!



How will you grow spiritually?

You'll get out of the year what you're willing to put in it. It's down to your own discipline - you will have time to use, so use it wisely. Keep developing your spiritual life in the secret place of your own life. Take the opportunities you're given, push yourself and don't settle for second best.

You will be have a mentor/pastoral encourager to meet up with on a regular basis. This will be someone we consider to be wise, pastoral, prophetically gifted, spiritually mature, and above all, a role model to pray for you and encourage you in your relationship with Jesus.

Studying the Bible is one of the best ways to learn more about God! Our hope is that by the end of the year, you will leave knowing more about yourselves, your faith, and God's vision for your life. This will involve lots of different chats, discussions, and other creative ways of getting into the Bible.

You will also grow by actually just doing the stuff! By trying things out, both in already established ministries and new things that you may pioneer. We will regularly encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and in doing this you will inevitably learn more about yourself and about God.

What now?

Seek God. Pray. Talk to those you love and trust. If DY is 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 Winchester Vineyard or any other church that shares the values of Winchester Vineyard.
- ▶ Available to commit to a year of serving the church and genuinely up for what that might look like.
- ▶ Flexible situation without too many other commitments.
- ▶ Able to balance and be responsible for their finances.
- ▶ Stable and secure, spiritually and emotionally.



Apply

Download an application form from:
winchestervineyard.org/discipleshipyear

Submit your application to dy@winchestervineyard.org

We will consider each application with references. We ask for a small group leader or pastor and one other reference, so please let them know that you're applying for the year, as we'll be asking them if they are happy to support your application.

We'll then invite you for an interview and let you know within a couple of weeks if we feel it's the right thing for you