



# Discipleship Year

*learn // serve // grow*







# Vision

## Discipleship can be defined as ‘systematically rearranging our lives so we’re more like Jesus’

John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard movement, once said: *‘I want to grow up before I grow old. Initial conversion doesn’t ensure Christian maturity. We must be willing to patiently submit to and cooperate aggressively with the process of discipleship, understanding that there are no shortcuts to maturity.’*

The Discipleship Year is an opportunity to commit yourself wholeheartedly to this process of discipleship. Throughout the year we will mentor you; provide you with practical tools and advice; encourage and foster independent study and reflection; and give you the opportunity to serve the church in a variety of ways. The aim is that you will grow closer to God, grow in knowledge of God, grow in gifting, grow in servant heartedness, grow in character and grow in experience.

As you take the opportunity to serve God and step beyond your comfort zones, we firmly believe He will meet you, challenge you, minister to you and shape you. We are confident that during the year God will make you more of who you were always meant to be. It is a year of surrender, of sacrifice; a year of seeing more of the Kingdom advancing in your life and of those around you. It is a unique opportunity to share in a community of people who are passionately pursuing God and who hunger for personal transformation into the likeness of Christ. Our hope is that it will be a year where you have more space to listen fervently, serve tirelessly, love devotedly, and in doing so, be changed eternally.

*“Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven’t stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. We pray that you’ll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you’ll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.” Colossians 1:9-12 from The Message*



## Who can apply?

### We look for committed followers of Jesus who are:

- ➔ Members of York Vineyard (in a small group, serving, attending on Sundays and giving financially in an accountable way) or any other church that shares the values of York Vineyard.
- ➔ Able, in practical terms, to commit to a year of serving the church.
- ➔ In a flexible situation without too many other commitments (as social or family time will be impacted).
- ➔ Able to be responsible for their finances and support themselves for the duration of the year.
- ➔ Age 18 or over.
- ➔ Up for the challenge!

## How to Apply

Email [hello@yorkvineyard.com](mailto:hello@yorkvineyard.com) for an application form.

The application process is our way of ensuring we have the right people and the right number of people for the year. More information on the application process can be found at the end of this booklet.





# Funding

The church will cover all of the costs of the course and therefore you won't be expected to pay for simply taking part in the year. You will, however, need to take responsibility for covering your living expenses for the duration of the course.

Due to the time commitments the course requires, you will be unable to work full time during the year. It is really important that you are not irresponsible with debt, and we would not encourage you to try and raise money to fund yourself. We would therefore encourage you to find part-time work, alongside the Discipleship Year, in order to support yourself. Learning to live and work in the secular world without Christian support is an important area of growth. Spending time in the world will help to keep your 'feet on the ground' whilst spending much of the year in a predominantly Christian environment. Doing secular work also allows you to develop and maintain relationships with people who do not go to church.

We recommend, where possible, saving money now before you start the course. If you are 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 is important, particularly given the current economic climate, that you make sure, as much as you can, that you have the means to support yourself through the year.

People who have done this kind of Discipleship Year can testify to how God has never let them go hungry and has been wonderfully generous with His provision.



# Church

## What will you give?

Our expectation is that you will commit fully to the Discipleship Year. This includes giving of your time and energy, a willingness to serve, a desire to discover and develop your giftings, and an openness to see how God wants to use you and change you.

## What will we give?

- The chance to serve the church, serve the community, and serve the people.
- The chance to increase your Kingdom impact.
- 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.
- The chance to see first hand how a growing church functions.
- Time to invest in your relationship with God and grow in vision for how He might use your life.

## How will you grow spiritually?

Everyone will be given a mentor 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 encourage you in your relationship with Jesus. Sessions with your mentor are intended to be a safe place for you to be encouraged, challenged and to gain a perspective outside of your day-to-day relationships. You will have the opportunity to reflect on your own spiritual journey and your mentor will give you the tools and support to allow you to develop and explore your relationship with your heavenly Father.



There will be weekly teaching from a member of staff or key leader on a range of Bible topics and current theological issues, as well as a monthly coaching session offered to you. Throughout the year you will regularly meet with a coordinator of the Discipleship Year to discuss how you're doing and plan for the next few months.

While we are here to encourage you and guide you, your spiritual journey is ultimately down to you. We encourage you to use the time you have wisely. Focus on your spiritual growth in the secret place of your own life. Take the opportunities you're given, push yourself and don't settle for second best.

“Doing the stuff” as John Wimber said, is a key Value of the Vineyard Movement. During the Discipleship Year we want to empower you to step out of your comfort zone, both in established ministries and new things that you may pioneer. We believe that the gifts of the spirit are for today and throughout the year we will encourage you to grow in these gifts.



## What's involved?

The Discipleship Year involves giving ten months, from the beginning of September to the end of June, to the church. The year is divided into three terms. Each term is designed to allow you to experience serving in different areas in the life of the church and outside. You will devote around 12 hours of your week to the church which will typically be split into two days, Thursday and Sunday, and will also include some evenings.

A considerable chunk of your time during the week will be spent serving, but you will also have time set aside for training, worship, ministry and community time with others on the Discipleship Year.

## A Typical Week...

**Thursday** – typically based in the Church Centre. There will be a morning session which will include teaching from a member of staff or key leader within the church. Some of the topics that will be covered include Vineyard Values, Church History, Spiritual Disciplines, Women in Leadership, Kingdom Theology and many more.

The afternoon will look different from week to week. For example: practical outreach on the streets, cleaning the Church Centre, or personal devotional or study time.

**Sunday** – As a member of the team you will be expected to be at both services on a Sunday. Typically, Discipleship Year team members 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 are involved with (e.g. Youth, Vineyard Kids, Newcomers, Refreshments) or may be a little more mundane (such as putting chairs out!), but all are essential to the smooth running of each service.





# Other Commitments

Outside of the normal Thursday to Sunday routine, there will be other things that we will expect you to commit to:

- **Small Group:** As a member of the church you will be expected to regularly attend a small group and be accountable to your small group leaders.
- **Serving at Events:** From time to time during the year there will be events that you will be asked to serve at. This might include men's or women's events, Family Christmas Party, Church Weekend Away, and other one-off events throughout the year.
- **Study Time:** Everyone will be expected to invest in personal study, typically a few hours a week. We have a reading list with set texts. You will also be encouraged to keep a journal through the year to allow you to reflect on what God is doing in your life.
- **Conferences:** You will have the opportunity to attend various National Vineyard conferences through the year such as the the National Leaders' Conference, Dreaming the Impossible and The Cause to Live For.

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 whom God brings along.

## What Now?

- Seek God
- Pray
- Talk to those you love and trust

If you want to go for it, fill in the application form and send it back to us. If you have any other questions about the Discipleship Year please email us at [hello@yorkvineyard.com](mailto:hello@yorkvineyard.com).

We will consider each application carefully. Please let your Small Group leader know that you're applying for the year as we will ask them if they are happy to support your application.

We will let you know within a few weeks whether you've got through the first stage of the selection process. If you have, we'll invite you to an interview with a member of staff and let you know within a couple of weeks whether we feel it's the right thing for you.

We are aware that this is quite a formal application process. This is because we are conscious of the level of commitment required from you and want to ensure that each successful applicant is able to complete the year. We need to be as sure as possible that this year is right for you and for us.

We believe that this Discipleship Year has the capacity to be an exciting, pivotal, envisioning and transformational year and we look forward to being a part of that journey with you.





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