



# WILD

WORSHIP - INVEST - LEARN - DREAM







# WHY WILD?

Something about the word wild, nicely summed up the essence of the year being planned when it was mentioned in a meeting back in October 2018. There's a song that was written at Vineyard 53 where God's love is expressed as a river running wild. Something that sweeps us up, fills us with a new kind of life and power, and takes us on adventures and to new places as we reach out to build God's kingdom.

Rivers aren't tame, and we can't tame them. As I'm writing this, I'm reminded of a quote by CS Lewis about Aslan in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*:

"Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he-quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"..."Safe?" said Mr Beaver ..."Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

During the WILD year, we want you to encounter Jesus, who is so good, but not safe. As a church we are longing to see people develop a relationship with Jesus, that not only transforms them completely as people, but takes them on an adventure they could never have imagined.



# WORSHIP-INVEST-LEARN-DREAM

We've used the word WILD as an acronym to help explain what the year involves:

## Worship

When we say worship, we don't just mean singing (although there will be some of that!). We mean a life lived worshipping God. Worship helps us shift our eyes off ourselves and onto him. This year is primarily about worship, it's about putting God first, letting him transform us, and showing others who he is. It's about putting aside time to spend in his presence, about intentionally committing to getting closer to him.

## Invest

Invest represents two things.

First, we want every person on WILD to invest in their relationship with God. This means committing to growing in the practices of Jesus, such as reading the Bible, prayer, fasting, taking a day off and more. We'll help you learn more about how to do these things effectively and do some of them together as well.

Second, we want every person on WILD to invest in Vineyard 53. We'll expect you to be an active member of a small group (or lead one), commit to regular rotas, help at certain events throughout the year and be around on Sundays every week. For some of you this might even mean giving up an extra day a week, to give time to a particular area of ministry in the church, such as Vineyard Kids or Worship.



## Learn

We are hoping everyone who does WILD will learn all sorts of new things about God and about themselves. Fridays will be a space for teaching and training. We'll cover different topics each week and learn and grow in community. At Vineyard 53 we also think that one of the best ways we can learn is to actually get out there and do the things we've talked about, so we'll be encouraging you to have a go and take risks throughout the year.

## Dream

During WILD we want to give you time to dream God's dreams. Dreams for yourself and what a life lived with God could look like for you. But also, dreams for how God could transform your friends, your families and our region. And, dreams about what God might want to do in and through you in the years to come.





# WHAT'S INVOLVED?

## What will you give?

You'll give a whole year of your life – your time, your energy, your talents, your passion, your commitment, your help. In terms of actual hours, you'll be giving at least 12 hours a week to the church for eleven months, from the beginning of September 2020 to the end of July 2021.

## How might the year help you grow closer to Jesus?

This is what we're all about at Vineyard 53, being with Jesus (relationship), becoming like Jesus (transformation), and doing the things that Jesus did (adventure).

The year will:

- Give you time to intentionally invest in your relationship with God, and help you grow in vision for how he might use you to extend his kingdom.
- Encourage you to get into routines and habits in your life with Jesus that will help you grow in faith throughout your life.
- Provide a community for you to grow in, where you can love, support, encourage and challenge each other.
- Give you time with V53 staff and others who have been walking with Jesus for a long time, and who are excited about investing in you and encouraging you on your own journey.
- Provide a supportive space for you to take risks and step outside of your comfort zone as you have a go at doing the things that Jesus did. You'll also probably get to try a bunch of things you've not done before.
- Give you the opportunity to be part of the adventure of helping run and develop areas within the church, and seeing other people grow closer to Jesus as part of those areas.



Although we are expecting you to take a high level of responsibility for developing your relationship with Jesus during the year, we will give you help where we can.

Each member of the year will be assigned a mentor from within Vineyard 53, to meet up with regularly. This will be someone we consider to be wise, spiritually mature and role model in their own relationship with Jesus. We hope that over the course of the year, that person will encourage you, challenge you, inspire you and give you perspective outside of your day-to-day relationships.

The WILD team will also conduct regular reviews with you throughout the year to help you reflect on your experience and set goals for future growth.





# STRUCTURE

The current plan is as follows, but bear in mind we may change things slightly, depending on the makeup of the people on the year. The structure will also be slightly different for each person, depending on whether you opt to take part in the extra day and which teams you choose to help on.

We will give you a certain amount of leave during the year, so you can take some Fridays and Sundays completely off. These will need to be agreed in advance with the WILD team, in a similar way to how you would do at work.

## Friday

Friday is the day where we spend time together as a community. We hope that over the year, you'll grow in relationship with each other as you journey together, so take time to get to know your course mates.

We'll start off with breakfast and then have a time of prayer and worship together. Then, there'll be a morning session which will take the form of some kind of teaching or practical training.

Then we'll have lunch together.

The afternoons will generally be more about putting what we're learning into practice. They might involve praying for each other, putting together a mini project to help people in our city, practicing hearing God, reading the Bible together and much more.

We may also visit The Base, our community café in Ellesmere Port some weeks.

And, we'll also regularly go out and pray for people on the streets. This may be every week or every other week, depending on what works for the group.



## Saturday

Saturday for most people will be their day off. As we've mentioned above we'll be expecting everyone to invest in learning the practices of Jesus, and one of them is Sabbath. We think this year will be quite demanding in terms of time and energy so getting rest is essential. Some of you may be working on a Saturday, in which case we recommend you try and take another day off in the week. We'd encourage you to do something away from church that replenishes you. We'll also point you towards some great resources on the spiritual practice of Sabbath, that will help you make the most of the day.

## Sunday

As part of WILD, you'll be expected to be at five out of six gatherings in a month, as well as every Church Has Left the Building. You'll also be required to be on team at least two out of four gatherings, plus one set up or set down (which can sometimes be coupled with other teams, so for example, you could do set up and welcome together). You'll also be expected to be on team at every other Church Has Left the Building.

## Wednesday (optional)

For those who want to there is the option to assist a specific area of ministry within the church, such as Vineyard Kids, Worship or Church Has Left the Building, for a day. This will most likely be on a Wednesday. You'll end up helping in a variety of ways, and you'll get to take on more responsibility. Do prayerfully consider this option and chat to us about where you might like to get involved.

## Other Commitments:

Outside of Friday to Sunday, there'll be other things we'll expect you to prioritise:

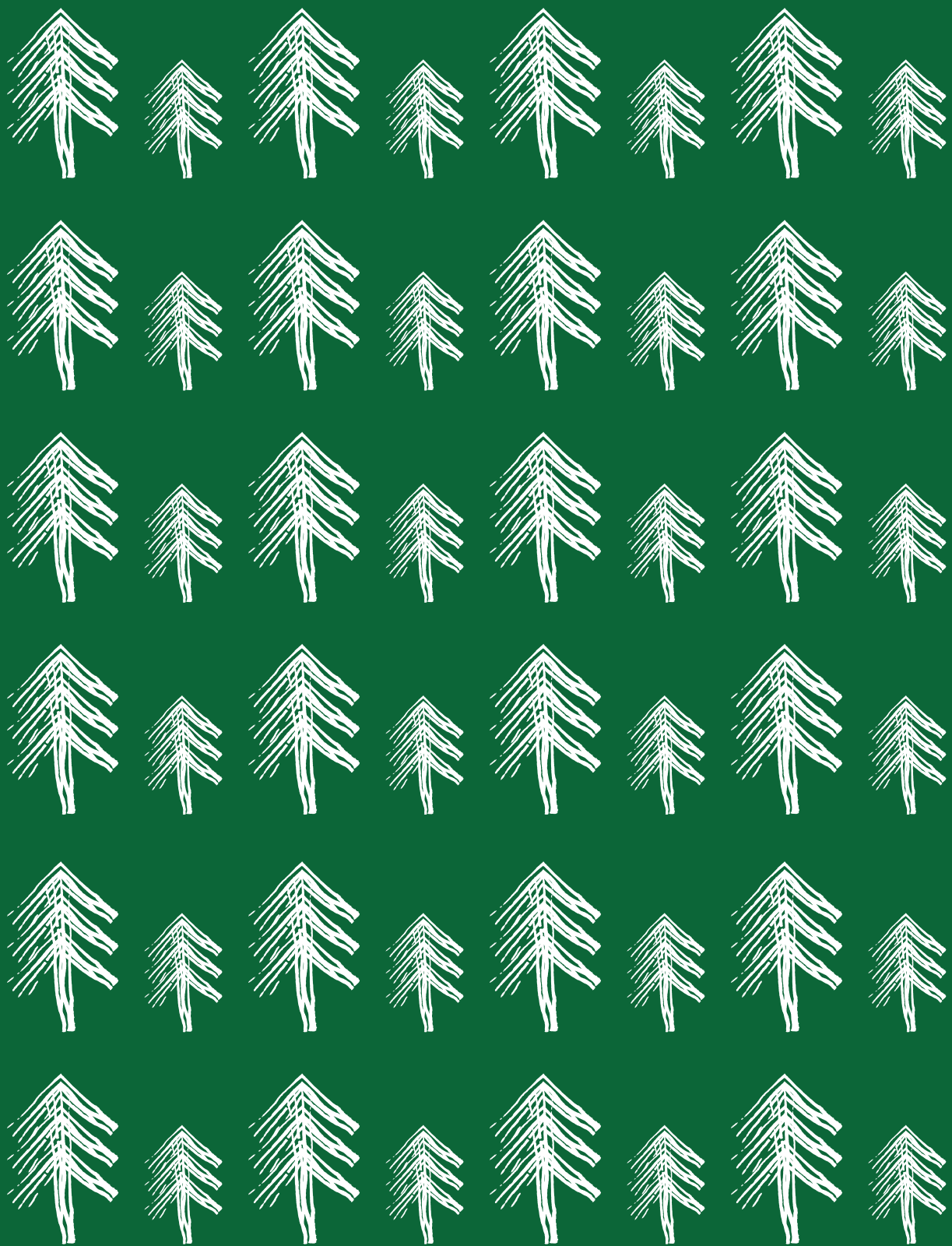
- Time with Jesus – everyone will be expected to take responsibility for their own walk with Jesus over the course of the year. If Fridays and Sundays are the only time you are spending time with God, you definitely won't get the most out of the year. We'll be helping you learn about and take up spiritual practices, but it's up to you to put these into place throughout the year. We'll also be reading some books together, and recommending you plenty of material to get your teeth into in your own time. You'll also be encouraged to keep a journal throughout the year to reflect on what God is doing in you.
- Time with those who don't know Jesus – it can be really easy on a year like this to spend all your time in church, and never see anyone who doesn't know Jesus. So, we'll be encouraging everyone on WILD to commit to meeting up with and spending time with those who don't know Jesus. It might be your work colleagues, your neighbours, the people at your gym, other parents from your child's school. Whoever it is, we want everyone on WILD to intentionally commit to getting to know some people outside of V53. Where appropriate, we'll also be encouraging you to take risks in those relationships, like inviting them to church, offering to pray for them or sharing your faith with them.
- Small Group - as a member of WILD, you'll be expected to attend a small group, so you can make the most of being part of our V53 family. We would prefer members of the year to sign up to a group that meets once a week, as we want you to get the most support possible over the course of the year.
- Helping at evening events – there will be some evening mid-week meetings, such as leaders' meetings and other one off events you'll be expected to help at, but we will let you know



these at the beginning of each term so you can get them in the diary. Depending on what areas of ministry you're involved in you may have some additional evening commitments, but these will be made clear by the members of staff that are overseeing you.

- Conferences – you'll have the opportunity to go to some of the national Vineyard conferences over the course of the year, such as Cause to Live For and the National Leaders Conference. We'll let you know about the cost of these in advance and try and subsidise you where possible.
- Trips away – we are hoping to do some retreat days and other time away together over the year. We also hope all of you will come to the Vineyard 53 Weekend Away in July!







# FUNDING

We are not charging you anything to take part in the year, it's completely free. We'll cover the costs of running the course. Having said that, it will be your responsibility to cover your expenses for the year, such as living costs.

In our experience from taking part and running similar courses like this, most people will survive financially by also working 2-4 days a week. If you're concerned about this, it's worth talking to people who have previously done WILD or Discipleship Year at Trent Vineyard about how they managed financially.

We don't want people to be irresponsible with money, but, we know through experience, that many people who take a financial risk taking part in a year like this, see God's provision in extraordinary ways. So, definitely don't let money be a reason not to apply. However, do prayerfully consider how you are going to afford to live over the year, and think about ways you could save up or earn more money in the meantime to give you a head start.

In terms of a job, you can do pretty much anything that will fit around the regular commitments we are asking of you. Be aware that if your job involves shifts or irregular hours, you will need to have Sundays and a certain amount of evenings off to get the most out of the year.



# WHAT NEXT?

We'd encourage everyone who's thinking about participating in a year like this to pray about it and talk to people you love and trust.

To apply for the year, there are a few requirements:

- You need to be a committed follower of Jesus. If you've been with us at V53 for a while, you'll know that in most areas of church life, people who aren't following Jesus have the opportunity to take part. However, due to the nature of this year, it's important that you have made a decision to follow Jesus, rather than still being a stage where you're exploring what that might mean for you.
- You need to be able in practical terms to commit to a year like this, and be genuinely up for what it might look like and what God might do with you.
- Be able to be responsible with finances.
- If you have them, have the agreement and support of your spouse and/or children.

## How to Apply

Email Rachel Holloway on [rachel@vineyard53.org](mailto:rachel@vineyard53.org) for an application form.

Fill it in and send it back to her.

Within a few weeks, we'll invite you to an informal interview, which will help us to discern together if it's the right fit for you.

We know that all sounds a bit formal, but it's important. The application process is our way of ensuring that the year is right for you, and making sure that both sides are clear about the expectations that come with taking part.







WILD