

# Discipleship Year 2019/20



Learn • Grow • Serve

## 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 amazing opportunity to give yourself wholeheartedly to this process for a year, where we'll aim to help you: Grow closer to God, Grow in knowledge of God, Grow in gifting, Grow in servant-heartedness, Grow in character, 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 all passionately pursuing God and who hunger for personal transformation into the likeness of Christ. Our hope would be that it will be a year where you will 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*)

## Character, Community and Calling

DY is a year tailored towards serving God in a variety of ways and being encouraged to step out of your comfort zone. In doing this we see time and time again how God teaches us about His character, and our own, and shows us where we need to become more like Jesus. Our God is a relational God and He calls us to be relational people. We hope that during DY we will build a community within the group, based on trust and a common desire to grow and go deeper with God. DY also provides an excellent opportunity to explore God’s calling for your life.



# Who Can Apply?

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

- Members of Winchester Vineyard (in a small group, serving, attending on n Sundays and giving financially in an accountable way) or any other church that shares the values of Winchester 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 balance and be responsible for their finances.
- Stable and secure, spiritually and mentally.
- Up for the challenge!

## How to Apply

Email [amy@winvin.org.uk](mailto:amy@winvin.org.uk) for an application form, then fill it in and submit it by 30 June 2019.

The application process is our way of ensuring we have the right people and the right number of people for the year.



# Funding

Unlike most discipleship years of this type, we won't be expecting you to pay for simply taking part in the year. We'll cover all the costs of the course, but having said that, it is going to cost you. As much as we might like to, it is not possible for the church to employ everyone, so it's up to you to take responsibility for ensuring you'll be able to cover your expenses (mainly 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 (rent, car, council tax etc). If you need accommodation, there may be folks in the church who can offer a room at a reasonable rate.

We don't want people to go out with a begging bowl to raise the cash, or to be irresponsible with debt, however, it's fair to say that most people who have done this kind of DY can testify to how God has never let them go hungry and has been wonderfully generous with His provision. We would encourage you to work part-time in the secular environment, as this is often just as important to your year as the things you do in the church context.

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. Furthermore, doing secular work allows you to develop and maintain relationships with people who don't go to church.

On top of your paid work you might find that those who know you well may offer to help support you.

Also, plan to save money now before you start the year. If you are currently a student, it might be a good idea to get a full-time 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.



## What will you give?

Quite simply, almost a whole year of your life – your time, your energy, your gifting, your passion, your loyalty... you.

## What will we give?

- The chance to serve the church, serve the community, 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 how a 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 will never see.
- Time to invest in your relationship with God and grow in vision for how He might use your life.

## How will you grow spiritually?

At the end of the day, your spiritual life is down to you. 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. Everyone will be given a **pastoral encourager** to meet up with on a regular basis, as appropriate. 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.

They will meet with you and, between the two of you, you will decide how the relationship will best work. It is mainly intended to be a place for you to be encouraged, challenged and to gain a perspective outside of your day-to-day relationships. In addition, there will be regular reviews with the DY team to see how you are doing and to plan for the next few months. We also offer weekly teaching that will contribute to your spiritual growth.

## How will you grow in experience?

By actually 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.

## Reporting relationships

As well as your pastoral encourager and the DY team leader, other reporting relationships will depend on your placements. The nature of what you're doing means that you'll be working in and around other staff and leaders throughout the year.



# What's involved?

Giving eleven months, from the beginning of September 2019 to the end of July 2020, to the church. 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. Typically you will devote around 20 hours of your week to the church, mostly on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, but also during the evenings of other days. This will mainly be through serving, but also includes training, time for worship and ministry, as well as community time as a group.

## A Typical Week...

➤ **Wednesday** will be the day we spend together as a community.

We start the day with a short time of worship and ministry. There is then a morning session of teaching.

At the end of the morning we gather together for lunch.

The afternoon session will vary throughout the year and may include a spotlight; where one member of the group shares something on a subject of their choice with the rest of the group or an outreach or blessing the community project or something similar. This is a great time of learning and growing together.

➤ **Thursday** is all about serving in the day-to-day life of the church.

You will be assigned to work in a specific area of ministry within the life of the church (e.g. Youth, Students, Compassion, Worship, Kids, Newcomers). You will report to a ministry leader for this time and serve this area in a variety of ways. It may be that you are already heavily involved in a specific area of ministry that you would like to invest more in or it maybe you would like to try something new. You will also have the opportunity to stay with the same area for the whole year or to move around depending on your areas of interest.

➤ **Saturday** is usually your day off.

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

➤ **Sunday** – As a member of the team you will be expected to be at the Sunday service.

Typically, DY team members serve at three of the four 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, Kids, Newcomers, Refreshments) or may be a little more mundane (you will put a lot of chairs out over the course of the year!), but all are essential to the smooth running of each service.







# Other Commitments

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

- Life Group – As a member of the church you will be expected to regularly attend a life group and be a part of the ‘family’ as normal.
- 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 will be required to serve at.
- 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 with you.
- 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. By serving on team at these events you will be given free admission.

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 it is right for you, this year will be exciting, pivotal, envisioning, challenging and transformational.

If you want to go for it, fill in the application form, or if you have any other questions, email [amy@winvin.org.uk](mailto:amy@winvin.org.uk)

We'll then consider each application. Please let your Life Group leader know that you're applying for the year, as we'll be asking them if they are happy to support your application.

We'll 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 some of the staff and let you know within a couple of weeks whether we feel it's the right thing for you.

We're aware that's all a bit formal, but this is important. We need to be as sure as possible that this year is right for you and us. We owe you that. If God has called you to do this year, it could prove to be one of the best years of your life!



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