

IG 1 Vision: 2024 - 2025

In IG 1 this year, we wish to see our members collectively become a stronger, more united group of brothers and sisters in Christ, driven by a motivated pursuit of Godly, Christian values that reflect the teachings that Jesus taught his disciples; this is alongside the ultimate pursuit of Christ himself that we aim to walk together towards. As the leaders of IG 1, we aim to foster an environment that embraces Christ-like values despite the views of secular society, based upon three main goals listed below.

1) Fellowship

1 John 1:3-4 – *“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.”*

Fellowship is the most important purpose of IGs, and at its core, it is us gathering as like-minded believers to worship and experience the joy of God together. True fellowship goes beyond just community; because it is a gift from Christ, our joy in having fellowship together with Him supersedes connecting through areas like our personalities, interests, and friendships, as we connect through walking together in our faith journeys. We wish to help foster an environment for this intentional, Christ-centered fellowship to grow throughout the year.

Ephesians 4:1-3 – *“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

Being in fellowship with one another and connecting through our common faith also means being united, not through earthly things, but through the Spirit. This creates a community that glorifies God, encourages, loves, shows hospitality, and is vulnerable with each other, all to truly walk together with Jesus.

Some practical ways we wish to foster and encourage this type of fellowship include:

1. Planning events for our IG members to bond outside of regular CCF programming, such as running group study sessions for our IG.
2. Starting and facilitating discussion and conversation on important issues regarding our spiritual lives.

2) Encouragement

There are many variables in university life that may seek to divert our mindset, values, and beliefs away from one of a believer in Christ. In IG 1, we must always ask ourselves this simple question before making any important decision: “What would Jesus do?”

Philippians 4:6 – *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

In IG 1, we aim to emphasize the importance and immense benefits to our lives of sticking to the values we all stand for as Christians bring us. We will encourage all members to be open with one another, be willing to share their struggles, successes, as well as their testimonies with one another to create an inclusive, encouraging space where all can support each other.

Matthew 28:20 – *“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

As university students, we all collectively face a great deal of stress, going through untold quantities of academic material such as papers, essays, lab reports, and readings. We would like to see members of our IG feel that despite the stress and competitiveness of university life, they can still feel welcome in IG 1 as a calming place where they can find comfort and support. We want the presence of IG 1 to be an uplifting environment where one can experience the love of God and the spirit of fellowship.

We wish to support an encouraging environment in IG 1 through:

1. Checking on our IG members, as well as encouraging everyone to check on one another.
2. Encouraging vulnerability with one another, especially through testimony sharing.
3. Sharing our experiences and acquired wisdom with one another, supporting each other with our strengths – whether that be academic-related or in any other issues in life.

3) Prayerful Mindset

As all members of our fellowship are active students, we all as students face many common struggles in living separate lives, one spiritual and one secular, focused on academics, finances, stress, relationships etc.

Matthew 26:41 – *“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

Prayer is immensely powerful. In IG 1, we will foster an inclusive environment that emphasizes the point of remembering the presence of God within our whole lives, that we can reliably turn to him as our refuge and strength, to focus on Him as we navigate the realities we face in the form of university life. God will continue to be with us as we go through everyday struggles – however, we must remember this fact which can be realized through the power of having a prayerful mindset always focused on Him.

We aim to encourage everyone in the IG (including ourselves) in adopting a prayerful mindset by:

1. Encouraging the sharing of “God sightings” with one another during the week – IG members can share how God has positively impacted their lives with one another!
2. Encouraging the sharing of prayer requests throughout the week. We will encourage all members to share any prayer requests to the IG, and for all members to collectively pray for their cause.