

## IG Vision

*Guershon (leading with Isaac)*

My desire to lead IG came from the time I spent reading Paul's letters to both Timothy and Titus. In them, Paul encourages his apprentices to continue the legacy of faith. Consequently it has been my desire to impart what I have received from my seniors, and pass on a legacy of faith which friends from my IG will also hopefully be able to pass on to a future generation of Jesus followers. A passage that has been extremely influential in helping form this mindset is 2 Timothy 2:1-7. Verses 1 and 2 proved especially important.

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

My hope for this year is to see the IG built up together and encouraged in a way that empowers them to both build up and encourage other people. I desire to see a collective strengthening in Christ, as if being trained to be on mission. I desire an intentional environment where discipleship thrives, not just community, but collective maturing into Christhood. We all have our shortcomings. But I do not believe Christianity is a linear journey of progression. Faith is a marathon. And it is in the context of us running with each other, hand in hand, where endurance is formed. Consequently I see this IG as a marathon where we learn not to necessarily run fast, but run together. (and I hate running)

Practically, I hope to establish an environment where caring for one another is not strange. I intend to do this by making IG sessions fun, engaging and unpredictable. A secondary goal for this IG is to encourage a fuller experience of life as Jesus intends it; to really rejoice with those rejoicing, and to mourn with those who mourn. I feel like retreat creates this level of intimacy. It would be encouraging to see that extended beyond retreat and IG nights and onto potentially every Friday.

So what are my strategies? Why don't we start by holding IG both in UofT and Toronto. God-willing, depending on how the health situation develops, I would love to hold IG in different points of interest across campus and Toronto. Partially because at the moment I am not sure I can use my space for this reason, but more importantly because I believe both UofT and Toronto can be really fun spaces. So I hope to, as much as it is practical, engage UofT and the city in our IG Bible Studies. Secondly I hope to foster an environment of celebration, goofiness, calm and sharing, be it through food, games, school or whatever else. Finally, and more importantly, I hope to establish a space for accountability. It can be difficult to find people who trust you enough to both see and call out your potential, not with judgement or disinterest, but out of genuineness. I hope to foster an environment of Christian community as described in Acts 2:42, and more importantly, in 2 Timothy 2:1-2. In all of this we cannot overemphasize the importance of prayer.