



university of toronto  
chinese christian fellowship

## Ministry Visions 2013-2014

# Men's Group

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My vision for Men's Group this year is "Gospel Centered Discipleship". This ministry is a small, practical extension of my year's vision of repentance, community and gospel. It will serve as a space for the men of CCF to gather and learn from each other about how God has been and will be working in our individual lives.

This space is aimed for honesty and genuineness about our victories and struggles in everyday life. When we are comfortable with sharing with one another our deepest joys and burdens, I believe is when God will reveal Himself.

### Discipleship

Discipleship is a big word – much like repentance – the dictionary definition of discipleship is: 1. noun: any follower of Christ; 2. verb (obsolete): to teach; train. Putting it together, you kind of get "to train and teach any follower of Christ". So how do you do that?

*"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 (ESV)*

This verse has evolved over the course of my walk with God. In recent months, I have experienced sharing burdens to the point where I would say "I feel bad for burdening you." I was befuddled by how someone can take everything I was sharing with them. It wasn't until I experienced taking on such burdens myself where I received the comment "Am I annoying you, Jak" that I realized the truth behind the law of Christ

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest....For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)*

By sharing burdens with each other, it points us back to our dependency on God.

*"...I think what discipling needs is for preaching and teaching that deals with the words of the text and tells them why they're there...until they can detect the because and the*



*therefores of the paragraphs of the bible and dig under them and find the treasures for their life so they don't have to be dependent on you to show it to them..." – John Piper*

It doesn't stop at sharing burdens. Through scripture, we will walk along side each other, following Christ.

### **Gospel**

*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1 (ESV)*

As we share our burdens, the deepest desires and longings of our heart will be revealed. What do we do with these desires and longings? This is where the heart of discipleship lies: in the gospel, we find the multiple faceted love of God and begin to see how he reveals it to us through our unique lives. As an eternal vacation overwhelms the dread of daily grind, the gospel overwhelms our deepest wants.

Following Christ together means continually reminding each other of the gospel.

### **Year's Rough Plan:**

Men's group will meet up once a week throughout the year:

#### *Semester 1:*

- First three weeks of a month – get together, study in a large group setting and then share in a small group setting
- Fourth week of a month – do something else: have food together, watch movie, soup kitchen etc.

#### *Semester 2:*

- Continue the schedule for Semester 1, with the addition of specific small groups depending on how well the group has gotten to know each other