



Winchester Vineyard Discipleship Year

Learn / Serve / Grow

Discipleship Year

We often say that 'discipleship is systematically rearranging our lives so we're more like Jesus'. The DY is an amazing opportunity to give yourself wholeheartedly to this process for a year, where together we will explore your calling in life, invite you to learn new skills and give you opportunities to grow in your gifts. This is more than a year out, it is 11 months to intentionally learn, serve & grow. DY is a year where we place ourselves before God and allow Him to be the one that shapes us, and helps us to become more like Jesus in every area of our lives.

Learn

Through training and teaching you will learn both practical skills and foundational Kingdom truths that will enable you to do what God has called you to do and passionately pursue Jesus above all else.

Serve

Through the opportunities provided this year you will get to serve in a variety of ways as you act as the hands and feet of Jesus, serving God and the people around you.

Grow

Through discipleship we long to see you grow into your true identity in Christ, stepping into the unique call that He has over your life. We want to see you finish genuinely different to how you started!

When is it?

The year runs 3 days a week including Sunday from the beginning of September until the end of July with DTI the National Vineyard Youth Festival.

There will be conferences and events that you attend as part of the DY throughout the year, including NLC in January and other ministry specific events.

What does it cost?

Unlike most discipleship programmes there is no charge! At the Vineyard, we understand and appreciate the incredible value that you will bring and we want to invest in you throughout your time with us.

You will, however, need to cover your own living costs (rent, food, transport etc.). Ultimately we trust that God is our good provider and will meet all of our needs. We have seen God provide in creative, miraculous and generous ways for DY students in the past, and we believe He will continue to do the same for you!

We encourage you to work part-time alongside DY outside of the church context. This enables you to develop and maintain relationships with people who don't know Jesus yet, and allows you to practice and share some of the things you're learning throughout the year.

“ I was expecting to spend my gap year at Church and get closer to God but I got so much more. I have a better grip on what God's calling is for my life and know what steps I need to take next, which were totally different to my plans.

Chris, DY 2018/19

“ I really appreciated the opportunity to focus on an area that I was passionate about. I spent time discovering what acting in a just way looks like in a commercial world and what we can do to improve the effects of that for people and our planet.

Nikki, DY 2017/18

“ DY was a great opportunity to explore ministry, whilst also receiving teaching and input from the fab team at Winchester Vineyard.

Amy, DY 2017/18

What to expect?

Streams

You will spend one day a week in your stream. Streams are specific areas of ministry within the life of the church that you'll be placed with for the year (e.g. youth, kids, students and young adults, compassion, operations). You will serve this area in a variety of ways. And from this year you will get a lot more time with your stream leader who can invest in you as you grow in responsibility, leadership and gifting.

Study Day

Each week there will be a day with in-house teaching, study time and spotlights. Throughout the year we will read a few core books together, with time to discuss them and write up reviews. There will also be spotlight sessions each term that provide you with the space to practice communicating with others. Each DY student will be expected to produce and present content on their chosen topic of interest which can be delivered in the form of a bible study, a talk or even a workshop. You can be as creative as you want!

Sundays

We believe that a key part of being part of Winchester Vineyard is getting involved and serving on Sundays. These provide a great space to serve and meet lots of others in the church. You will be a part of the children & youth team, and another team of your choice. This could be anything from cafe, to venue, to welcome, or connect. All together you will serve at a minimum of 2 out of 4 services each month.

There will also be additional commitments which range from being part of a life group, to attending training, leadership meetings or weekend events.

Life Groups

Life Groups are a really important part of the church. They are essential in getting involved in the wider church, making new friends and being part of an accountable community. If you are not already part of one, we will help you find a great group to join!

How will you grow spiritually?

You'll get out of the year what you're willing to put in. 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. 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.

Studying the Bible is one of the best ways to **learn more about God!** Our hope is that by the end of the year, you will leave knowing more about yourselves, your faith, and God's vision for your life. This will involve lots of different chats, discussions, and other creative ways of getting into the Bible.

You will also grow by actually just **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.**

What now?

Seek God. Pray. Talk to those you love and trust. If DY is right for you, this year will be exciting, pivotal, envisioning, challenging and transformational.

To apply for the year, we'd look for committed followers of Jesus who are:

- Members of Winchester Vineyard or any other church that shares the values of Winchester Vineyard.
- Able to commit to a year of serving the church and genuinely up for what that might look like.
- In a flexible situation without too many other commitments
- Able to balance and be responsible for their finances.
- Stable and secure, spiritually and mentally.

If you want to go for it, or have any questions, then email dy@winvin.org.uk to get your hands on an application form and return it by 31st May.

We'll then consider each application with references. We ask for your Life Group leader and one other reference, so please let them know that you're applying for the year, as we'll be asking them if they are happy to support your application.

We'll then invite you for an interview and let you know within a couple of weeks if we feel it's the right thing for you.