

Apprenticeship

GROWING IN LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR



VISION

Apprenticeship is a 7-week journey where we grow in our love for God and for neighbor through learning new spiritual practices and trying out intentional relational risks.



MAKE SPACE FOR JESUS

Quality and consistent time with Jesus is crucial to our faith and everything should center around this value



INCARNATIONAL MINISTRY

Jesus lived among the people doing everyday things. We learn to love our neighbor by living life in community with others



LEADING A SMALL GROUP

God has entrusted us to the networks we're in to partner with Him. Leading a small group is one way to live that out

INTRODUCTION

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-7

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

HEAR THE WORD

How does this definition of love challenge your view of influencing others on our campus?

How do you hope to grow in love for God and neighbor?

RESPOND

Regardless of what we know of ministry or being a leader in the church, it all comes back to one thing: **love**.

As we journey through Apprenticeship, we are not just learning how to be the best leader we can be, but we are learning to love God and our neighbor more fully.

One way that we learn to love more fully is by taking risks or doing things that may be outside of our comfort zone. Without that, nothing would change!

During this program, you will have opportunities to dive deeper with Jesus and your community with variable levels of risk depending on what is appropriate for your faith journey. Whether you choose to **JUMP** or **DIVE IN** we believe that God will honor the risk you choose to take.

EXPECTATIONS

The hope is by the end of this program, you will have developed a deeper relationship with Jesus and gained a value for active faith. A defined leadership role may be part of how you live out what you've learned, but is not the only route to continue your journey with Jesus. This is **ONE** active step in growing your relationship with Jesus that can be lived out on your campus, in your family, and your community.

REST AND SABBATH

Amidst the busyness of our lives and the responsibility to care for others, God is the only one who can refresh our souls. Cultivating regular time to encounter him is crucial to grow in our love for him and for our neighbor.

MARK 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. ³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. ³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" ³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else-to the nearby villages-so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

HEAR THE WORD

Why do you think Jesus gets up early in the morning, goes to a solitary place, and prays?

What is the significance of Jesus' reply in v. 38? How did Jesus come to this conclusion?

How have you seen sabbath done before? What are the barriers you have to try an extended rest with Jesus?

RESPOND

Jesus makes time in his busy schedule to be alone with the Father, gaining a renewed sense of purpose and direction. This week, we'll be making space to "Sabbath," or "rest," with God.

God designed us all differently, so the way each person rests will look different. Here are some guidelines and tips to help you plan your sabbath:

- **Connect with God** through familiar or new spiritual disciplines.
- **Go somewhere** you don't usually go to help you rest. Is there a place you can drive or walk to? A park, beach, or grassy section of campus?
- **Acknowledge the challenge** of refraining from doing work during your sabbath time by paying attention to your thoughts. If thoughts of different responsibilities pop into your head during your time, write them on a note to revisit later. Jot it down, and entrust it to God.
- **Have fun** as a way to experience joy with God! What is a hobby that is life giving for you?
- **Stay present** by not using technology. Have your phone on you for safety or checking the time, but put it on airplane mode, turn it off, or use "Do Not Disturb" mode. You may play music if that helps you rest :)

JUMP IN

Looking at your calendar, select a day and time where you will sabbath for a 2 hour block.

DIVE IN

Select a day and time where you will sabbath for a 4 hour block. You cannot split this into 2 hours over 2 different days, the challenge is to sabbath for 4 hours straight.

When will you sabbath? _____ Put it into your calendar.
(i.e. Saturday 10am-2pm)

DEBRIEF

- What did you do during your sabbath time?
- What were your thoughts/feelings when you began your sabbath time? During your sabbath? Ending your sabbath?
- What did you like about your sabbath? What was challenging? What might you do differently next time?

LORDSHIP OF OUR SCHEDULE

Jesus cares about every aspect of our lives and genuinely wants to see us thrive. He desires for us to have a healthy relationship with work and rest. "Lordship" is inviting Jesus to have authority over every area of our lives and we can offer our schedules and our time to Him.

Read Psalm 22 as context. Both of these Psalms were written by King David as a couplet to describe his complicated feelings. Together, we see the experience of the absence of God (Psalm 22) and the presence of God (Psalm 23). In reading both, we get a fuller and realistic picture of what life is like.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

HEAR THE WORD

How do we see God's love for us represented in Psalm 23?

If I regularly experienced God's love in Scripture, how would my life be different?

RESPOND

Creating time in our schedules to experience God can seem impossible, but including spiritual disciplines are crucial to our growth in our relationships with Jesus.

Here are two options of spiritual disciplines that you could try:

- **Reading Scripture** (ie. 1 chapter in the New Testament, 1 Psalm, etc.)
- **Intentional Prayer** (ie. Praying for others, for your requests, listening prayer, etc.)

The goal is not perfection in our lives with Jesus but growth. Whenever we spend time with Jesus, it is an opportunity to be restored by him. What would it look like to practically make space in your weekly schedule to spend with Jesus? (choose some time slots from the schedule you just made)

JUMP IN

Commit to practicing one spiritual discipline 3 times this week. The goal is to build consistency in our weekly rhythms, so choose a block of time that feels appropriate to where you are at in your faith journey...

DIVE IN

Commit to practicing a spiritual discipline every day this week. Consider inviting a friend to join you!

DEBRIEF

- What was it like to spend time with God this week?
- How did it feel to consider Jesus in the planning of your week?

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus intentionally built relationships with those around him as a way to share God's love. As we experience the love of God for ourselves, he invites us to do the same.

JOHN 1:14; 35-42

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

HEAR THE WORD

Why do you think it is significant that Jesus came in human form?

Rather than answering the disciples' question in verse 38, Jesus invites them to come and spend the day with him. Why do you think that is significant?

How might God want to change your friends' view of Jesus as a result of you spending time with them? What could that look like?

RESPOND

Network Maps: Where has God placed you to be in the same boat as others on your campus as Jesus was in Simon's boat?

1. Write your name in the middle and circle it
 2. Write different spheres of influence/communities you're part of (work, dorm, team, club)
 3. Write names of people you've gotten to know in this area of your life
- Where are your friends at in their spiritual journeys?
 - Which people on your map are likely to say yes to your invitation to explore faith with you?
 - How might you speak their language and give them a glimpse into Jesus' Kingdom?

JUMP IN

Pray for one person in your network map.

DIVE IN

Have a spiritual conversation with a friend in your network map.

DEBRIEF

- What was it like to pray for/have a spiritual conversation with your friend?
- How did God grow your love for him and your love for your friend as you took that risk?
- What is one next step you can take to continue building relationships in a spiritually intentional way?

THE GOSPEL

Our actions as followers of Jesus directly flow from our knowledge and experiences of Jesus. The gospel (the good news of Jesus) helps us understand how much God loves us and invites us to share that love with those around us.

JOHN 1:43-51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote-Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." ⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

HEAR THE WORD

How is the news of Jesus being shared?

Why does Philip ask Nathaniel to "come and see" Jesus?

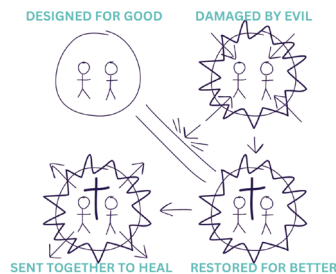
How does this shape the way we share about Jesus on campus?

RESPOND

God created us to have flourishing relationships with our neighbors despite our social/ethnic/economic/gender etc. differences, and he invites us to join him in that mission to redeem relationships between people and to share His love.

How have you heard God's message of salvation (gospel) preached in the past?

Follow this QR code to see one example for how the good news of Jesus can be shared:



- **Designed for Good** - we were created to be in relationship with God creation, and each other.
- **Damaged by Evil** - self-centeredness and selfish desires damaged God's world (sin), and our relationships with him, each other, and all creation.
- **Restored for Better** - Jesus restored the world by taking brokenness on himself to-death on a cross and his resurrection, restoring our relationship with God when we trust Jesus with our lives and repent of our sin.
- **Sent Together to Heal** - Jesus sends us into the world to bring his love, power, and-justice, with the Holy Spirit and in community with people, inviting us to be a part of the healing of the world under his leadership of our lives.

As we become more comfortable with this script, we can start personalizing this by adding parts of our testimony as we share the gospel.

JUMP IN

Practice sharing the Big Story presentation with a friend.

DIVE IN

Share the Big Story presentation with a non-Christian friend from your network map.

DEBRIEF

Just like Jesus in this passage, God will place us in opportunities to share about him with the people around us. That might feel both exciting and challenging to share the good news with people in our spheres and with those that are on the margins.

- What was it like to share the gospel with other people?
- What barriers might you feel when considering sharing the gospel with people who might have a different background than you?
- Why is that valuable?

BELOVED COMMUNITY

God gives us the gift of community to help us grow in our love for Him and extend His love to our neighbors. Let's check out what community looked like in the lives of the earliest Christians.

ACTS 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

HEAR THE WORD

What is compelling to you about this vision for Christian community?

How is this picture of community similar to or different from what you have experienced in the past?

RESPOND

In this passage, we see that Christian community **encounters** God together regularly, **empowers** one another to care for their community, and **expands** the transformation they experience to those who don't know Jesus.

What would you long for out of this type of community on your campus?

JUMP IN

Find a friend to go through this passage with and discuss questions one and two together. Based on the things that are standing out to you, decide on one practical step you can take this week to experience more of this kind of community in your fellowship.

DIVE IN

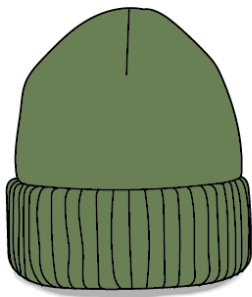
Ask the friend you shared the passage with to host a fun gathering with you for a couple of people from your network. Invite some of your non-Christian friends to join you. What will you need to make this happen?

DEBRIEF

- How did it feel to share this passage with a friend? What was standing out to you in your conversation?
- How did you see the community of the early church reflected in your gathering with your friends?

SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP

Leading a small group is a tangible way we can work with God to establish the radical type of community we see in the Bible on campus. It can often feel overwhelming to think about small group leadership because it seems like a small group leader wears so many different hats. Let's learn how to host a small group by examining the three roles of a small group leader.



FACILITATOR

Help guide discussions and group processes

- Keep the group moving along toward its goal
- Manage toward healthy discussions



SHEPHERD

Give spiritual leadership

- Gathering people to encounter Jesus
- Fostering vulnerability
- Being sensitive to the Holy Spirit

the
MANY HATS
of a
SMALL GROUP LEADER

HOST

Create a welcoming space

- Food
- Location
- Intro & Icebreakers



REFLECTION

Do you know someone who wears one of these hats particularly well when leading a group of people? How do you feel when you are a part of that group?

Which of these roles comes most naturally to you? How do you see that?

Which of these do you need help/want to grow in?

RESPOND

Work with your leader to lead a small group with some friends this week. Consider focusing on Acts 2:42-47 or another passage that is meaningful to you as the basis for your discussion. Choose one role of small group leadership to focus on growing in this next week as you lead.

JUMP IN

Hone your natural strengths by picking the role you feel most comfortable in and trying one of the ideas listed below!

DIVE IN

Expand your skillset by picking the role you feel least comfortable in and trying one of the ideas listed below!

Facilitator:

- Practice summarizing and rephrasing comments during the small group discussion to help your friends feel heard and keep the conversation organized
- Ask follow-up questions when your friends share their thoughts or experiences during the small group to guide the conversation deeper

Host:

- Bring snacks to the study to create a welcoming environment
- Lead an icebreaker that helps your friends have fun, get comfortable, and get to know each other

Shepherd:

- Practice authenticity and sharing vulnerably during your conversation to help people feel comfortable to engage with God and one another
- Ask the group for prayer requests at the end of your conversation and pray for one another to help the group care for one another spiritually

DEBRIEF

- What was your experience like hosting a space for your friends to encounter Jesus? What felt challenging? What felt exciting?
- How did you see people engaging with God?
- How did you see yourself grow as a leader while practicing being a Host, Facilitator, or Shepherd?

CONSIDERING LEADERSHIP

As your time in apprenticeship is closing, let's make some space to reflect on what God has done and consider how he might want you to continue growing in your love for him and for your neighbor.

- What has been good and what has been challenging for you as you have gone through the apprenticeship program?
- How have you grown in your love for God and for your neighbor?
- What commitments might you need to make to continue growing in these things?

EXODUS 3:7-12

⁷The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey-the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

HEAR THE WORD

What stands out to you about Moses' interaction with God?

What motivates God to send Moses to lead his people out of Egypt?

How is God's response to Moses an answer to his questions in v.11?

It is God's compassion for his people that compels him to invite Moses into leadership. Although Moses is hesitant to lead, God does not choose someone else for the job. Instead, He promises that He will be with Moses.

RESPOND

Take a moment to ask God in prayer who He has compassion for on your campus. Write down the specific individuals, people-groups, majors, etc. that come to mind.

- How does your heart align with God's heart for these people?
- Ask God to give you His compassion and love for these people on your campus.
- What steps may God be inviting you to take to respond to his compassion for your campus?

NEXT STEPS

Throughout the apprenticeship program, you have learned and reciprocated God's love for you and His love for your neighbor. You have received his compassion for your campus, and, now, you get to consider how He might be inviting you to respond.

Although it is not the only way, participating in leadership in the context of InterVarsity is a great way to respond to God's compassion for your campus as well as to continue growing in your own faith. As you consider joining your campus' leadership team, reflect on these questions:

- How might God use the role of leadership to deepen my love for Him?
- How might God use the role of leadership to impact my campus?
- For some of us, leading may not be the best next step. If it were not a defined leadership role, what other ways would be excited to serve and influence in our fellowship?