



# School of Discipleship Information Packet

## The Why:

We see in Matthew 4:18-19 Jesus calls his disciples to follow him with a promise to make them fishers of men. After the crucifixion, resurrection, and the 40 days he returned to walk on the earth, Jesus tells us to GO and make disciples (Matt 28:18). This commission is for everyone who calls themselves a Christian, yet, many don't feel like they have the tools or knowledge to minister to a coworker, a classmate, to pursue a leadership call, or to lead our families in truth.

Though personal devotion and commitment to small groups and services play a part, many times this gap is not your fault. In a measure, it's the church as a whole who has failed. Sometimes, we expect people to make a huge jump past joining a church, serving on a team, and going through healing programs, all of which are good and necessary, but leave out practical tools and empowering encouragement for making disciples. For many, it can be intimidating; however, just as Paul trained Timothy (2nd Timothy 2:2), we are to entrust to others what we have been given.

Ephesians 4:11 says it's actually the responsibility of the five fold ministry (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers) to prepare God's people for works of service so that the Body of Christ can be built up. Discipleship doesn't happen by accident. We need a WAY to equip the saints. And that's why we believe in a more hands on approach- one way being schools, like Equip.

## The What:

Our mission statement:

*To see people Equipped and Empowered to impact the world around them with the Love and Power of God.*

Our vision:

*We believe you are called to shape history, born to impact the world, created to leave a legacy. For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son... Through Him He has given the church the power to bring individuals and nations into freedom. We are committed to seeing Jesus get what He paid for; a world transformed in and through You.*

*We are driven by a passion to raise up disciples who pursue God, live the Gospel, and release the Kingdom in every sphere of influence. Disciples who will go into all the world, say what He is saying, and do what He is doing. We believe we owe the world an encounter with the living God.*

Facilitation:

*Our school meets part time and is currently offered as a two year program:*

First Year focuses on foundational topics such as spiritual disciplines, identity, intimacy with God, and learning to do the works of Jesus - share the gospel, heal the sick, and confront the demonic. In class we seek to have teaching, open discussion, and activations. We also assign spiritual discipline exercises outside of class time with daily reading, prayer and devotional times as well as other short projects. We suggest any follower of Christ enroll in first year!

Second Year focuses on leadership development and cultivating personal giftings. At this time, this is Vine Church's model for training and raising up leaders within our body. To enroll, all students MUST complete First-Year and an interview process. Book reports, activations, and

personal opportunities for growth in specific areas of interest will be explored. Students must display personal hunger and responsibility for classwork.

Though this program is not yet accredited, we use many sources of highly acclaimed curriculum. With all requirements met, we offer a Certificate of Completion for both years at a graduation ceremony before our local body, Vine Church.

### **The When and Where:**

Equip strives to follow Vine Church's small group semester schedule (approximately September 1- December 1 for fall and February 1 through May 1 for spring). Each semester is approximately 12 weeks. First year students meet Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30pm. Second year meets on assigned Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30, with the exception of monthly Tuesday connect groups.

We've made the hard decision to move classes primarily to zoom for two reasons; first, with the current events in our world pertaining to Covid-19, we strive for safety and will do our part to help prevent the spread in wisdom. Secondly, in years past we found time a bit constraining for students rushing from work, or parents who needed childcare on a school night to attend class. With most classes being on zoom, we not only help eliminate the rushing, extra planning and cost, we hope that this becomes a welcoming Kingdom atmosphere in your home where we invite our family to listen in at times without pressure. We hope it creates inclusion and support from your family as they are making room for you to attend school via finances and time. There will, however, be scheduled in person connect groups once a month at our Vine Studio - 110 C University Ave, Troy.

### **Requirements:**

#### Applications:

First year students: Anyone age 16 and up are welcome to apply. Any teens younger than 16 may be considered on an individual basis based on their maturity. All students must be active and serve in a local church. Applications can be printed online from our website: [www.vinetroy.com/equip](http://www.vinetroy.com/equip). Some questions are very personal, but we want to challenge you to not let it intimidate you. Answering 'yes' to any difficult question does not disqualify you for enrollment. Our goal is to intentionally, and confidentially, cover you in prayer and help you get to the next place of freedom in God. Once completed, please submit to the church office / studio building- 110B University Ave, Troy \* 334-566-9101.

Second year students: Must have completed year one and met all requirements. A leadership interview will be scheduled for you. Should you be deemed ready to continue, we congratulate you and help you prioritize your personal goals for the semester. If you are deemed not ready to continue, we will suggest other paths. Any first year graduate is welcome to sit back through year one teachings, free of charge, at any time.

#### Cost:

First year students: tuition is currently \$150 per student per semester (\$300 for the year). We are offering this extremely low rate for this semester as we desire to see as many people as possible take advantage of the school and keep costs low to do so. At this time, we are only looking to cover our direct costs of the school; the church and teachers do not benefit monetarily.

Second year students: tuition continues at \$100 per semester (\$200 for the year). This is the introductory price for the first time a second year is offered. These students understand that they are helping to pioneer and lay the foundation for others to follow. Personal costs for books for book reports (around \$15-\$20 per semester) are also required.

As we progress, we'll continue to refine the curriculum and processes to be as effective as possible for our region and local church. As we do, we anticipate these costs will rise. The cost will cover personal notebooks as well as the online platform and a "Purple Book" (year one

students) to build personal foundations and study habits. Your tuition also covers an end-of-year graduation ceremony and reception.

**Applications and Payment options:**

At this time, we can only take 20 first year students and 5 second year students. If approved for enrollment, a deposit of at least \$50 for tuition will be due by the first night of class. Payments can be dropped off to the church office, and payments MUST be marked for "Equip School" along with your name.

**Payment plans and scholarships:**

Although tuition is due by the first day of class, there is a payment plan available for students who need more time to acquire all funds: \$50 will be collected around the first of the month (September, October, and November). If an immediate family member is enrolling with you, there is also a \$25 scholarship discount per student for those families.

**Internet / Smart Device:**

It will be essential to have internet access and either a computer, tablet, or smartphone to watch assigned videos and receive school updates. Many of the coffee shops in town and the Vine studio (parking lot) have internet access should anyone need.

**Attendance policy:**

We ask that students enrolled maintain faithful attendance and will only allow for 2 absences per semester due to the fast pace and limited duration of the program. We understand life happens, and if an absence is unavoidable, we hope to record our zoom meetings so that if you miss a class, it will be easy to catch up at your convenience. Any notes can be emailed to you.

**Our history and staff:**

In the works for several years, Corey and Jessica Willis brought a vision of a discipleship school under the covering of Vine Church to Pastor Louis Johnson. After much prayer, transitioning and planning, in the fall of 2019, they launched the preliminary program. After graduating the first 12 students in May of 2020, they are excited to continue to build upon this expanding foundation. Corey and Jessica are the founding co-directors and teachers of Equip School of Discipleship. In addition, Pastor Corey serves as an elder and overseer for technology, worship and finances within the church. Pastor Jessica serves in the office of a prophet, an overseer of worship, and as the Equip administrator. Though these two first moved to Troy to take on the worship pastoral positions, their hearts' delight is to bridge the gap in ministry through discipleship. In conjunction with the support of the elders at Vine Church and relationships with Bethel School of Supernatural ministry, they, along with other upcoming leaders and students of the second year program, look forward to equipping the saints here locally to live a life full of love for God and His world.

Both Corey and Jessica are graduates of Every Nation Leadership Institute (ENLI) program and have prior experience hosting a satellite school in Tennessee before moving to Troy. They've been able to co-labor with God to see graduates from there still bearing fruit from their time and commitment to a discipleship program. They hope Equip continues to grow, to glorify God, make Jesus famous in Troy, and bring Kingdom to the ends of the earth.

**Contact information:**

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