

The Alongsider Course



make disciples together

The Alongsider Course Handbook

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Welcome to The Alongsider Course.

We want to invite you on a journey – one that will help you discover the unique part you can play in what God is doing in the world *through your everyday relationships*.

God has carefully planted you in your family, community, workplace, friendships and local church for his purposes. What if impacting the world for God started right where you already are?

We are inviting you to consider being an alongsider. An alongsider is a disciple-maker but for many of us those words can sound scary, even beyond us... Our heart is to show that this is a vision for the ordinary person, for the everyday saint, not just the specially trained few. This is a vision for *your* life.

You are already alongside people in life – the only question is whether you will invite God to use you in these spaces.

Join us as we explore how spiritual impact isn't distant or daunting – it's closer to home and more everyday than you ever thought possible.

'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.' (1 John 3:16)



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01. A vision of love

Jesus' primary command was to love (John 15:12), so it makes sense for us to spend some time thinking about how we can love others. One of the simplest but most profound ways to enter into this vision of love is by being an alonsider, a disciple-maker. That may sound grand or beyond you ... but if you can love, you can make a spiritual impact. We believe that through your everyday relationships, you can participate in God's loving transformation of the world.

What made you sign up for The Alonsider Course?

What are you hoping for from our time together?

Session notes

‘Love is the intentional movement towards another for their good and their growth’

‘When Jesus said “make disciples” he was calling us to be intentional about the formation influence we naturally have on people we are close to’

‘Jesus spent disproportion time walking closely with a few’

‘As Christians we have never had an ordinary unspiritual friendship’

‘An Alongsider is someone who intentionally walks closely with another to serve Jesus’ purposes in their life’

What stops you from getting alongside someone in an intentional way?

*'Becoming an
alongsider is for
everyone, not just
the talented few.'*

-  **SIT** Sitting with Jesus and talking about the people around you
-  **STEP OUT** Intentionally engaging with a few of them
-  **STAY ALONGSIDE** Learning how to keep walking with them through the ups and downs of life

 **SIT**  **STEP OUT**  **STAY ALONGSIDE**

Take 5-10 minutes each day to sit and pray for the people that God has placed around you.

When and where might work well for you to do this practice? (It may take some experimenting to find the best fit.)

Is there a part of your routine that you can anchor it to?

Who you are the people you'll be spending time with this week, whom you could talk with God about?

Is God highlighting someone in particular for you to focus your prayers on?

Read Colossians 3:12-14:

'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.'

List the characteristics of love Paul mentions.

Next to your list, write the names of those in your life who may need each characteristic. (Who needs kindness or gentleness or forgiveness?)