

Growth in Quarantine

I think it's safe to say that this semester did not end how I expected it to. While it would have been easy to dwell on the disappointment of cancelled events and adjusted plans, I have chosen to reflect on the ways God has been at work during this unique season. Here are just a couple of the ways God has been at work in the lives of students during the quarantine.

◇ Making Disciples

A couple of the student leader women I've been discipling got the courage to start meeting with women in their Bible studies during this time. Having less scheduled activities and demands from classes allowed space for these discipleship relationships to finally take off.

"I originally wanted to ask Cierra to read the Bible with me and ease into discipling her after several more meetings, but always made the "I don't have time excuse." When COVID-19 happened and I could no longer see my bible study girls or Cierra, I knew accountability would be key for me and for them as well. So, instead of "easing into discipleship," why not just ask her upfront, "Can I disciple you?" I popped the question and she said yes! I was hesitant because of the weird timing, but the Lord provided. It's been awesome to see how much Cierra has grown in her devotion to Christ and the ministry through the semester and our 1 on 1s. It was of course challenging because I felt disconnected at first, but I let God work through FaceTime and not my own abilities. I think these FaceTime meetings will make our face to face meetings all the more special and enjoyable in the future." -Elena



Elena's Bible study from this year. Elena (bottom right) started meeting with Cierra (top left) during quarantine.



◇ Seeking Fellowship

My upperclassman Bible study really struggled getting to know one another on a deeper level this year. As we neared the end of our Zoom Bible study meetings this semester, they all expressed that they wanted to spend more time together and were seeing more of the value of community after spending so much time isolated from others. Since then, we've been able to have a couple of gatherings together (pictured to the left). It's been encouraging to watch them learn how to better draw one another out with questions, and there has been a noticeable new depth to our conversations as a group. Many of them have also gotten out of their comfort zones to initiate and plan these get togethers which has been encouraging to me.

Prayer Requests:

- ◇ That the Lord would provide for all of my needs for this coming year as I focus on fundraising this summer.
- ◇ For me to take advantage of the opportunities I have for personal growth and processing over the summer.
- ◇ That students, as well as myself would experience deep in-person fellowship this summer and for wisdom as to how we gather and connect as most restrictions have been lifted.
- ◇ Pray for wisdom for our staff team as we make plans and decisions for this coming school year, as things will likely look much different on campus than they did in the past.

~Natalie