

2025 - 2026



# DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

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MEET. KNOW. FOLLOW.



**AUSTIN  
OAKS**  
CHURCH



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# INTRODUCTION



We are so excited that you are considering your next step in following Jesus! This guide is a simple aide to help you:

- find a **Community** or **Focus group**
- find a place to use your spiritual gifts to serve others (**Church Ministry**)
- find a place to impact our city (**City Outreach**)

When Jesus chose His first disciples he used a simple phrase: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” (Matthew 4:19).

Our job is to follow Jesus.

His job is to make us into people who help others become followers (“fishers of people”).

That’s the journey this Guide can help you begin.

## ***Community & Focus Groups***

The Bible is filled with “one another” commands that encourage us to serve & encourage one another, bear one another’s burdens, speak truth & forgive one another, and many more. These are impossible to do alone. A Community Group or Focus Group is designed to help you do this. This is your best first step.

## ***Church Ministry***

God has designed each of us to serve and impact others. Serving others in your church not only benefits others, it transforms you from being a consumer into a leader and lover of others. Church ministries provide the environment for this transformation.

## ***City Outreach***

Finally, God wants us, His Church, to be a light in our city. Most of your life is lived outside the gathering of the church. This is your opportunity to represent God to your world. A City Outreach can help you do this with others.

Use this guide to ponder and pray about the opportunities God has put before you. If you have any questions reach out to any of us on the Discipleship Team.

Because of Him,

*Michelle Hagens - **Women’s Discipleship*** (michelle.hagens@austinoakchurch.org)

*Faith Pope - **Next Steps*** (faith.pope@austinoakchurch.org)

*Chad McCartney - **Pastor of Discipleship*** (chad.mccartney@austinoakchurch.org)

*Karen Andrews - **Hospitality*** (karen.andrews@austinoakchurch.org)

# FOCUS GROUPS

Groups that are focused on an aspect of discipleship for a period of time.



## MARRIAGE GROUPS

### ReEngage

**Description:** ReEngage is a safe place for couples to reignite, reconnect, or even resurrect their marriage. This ministry strengthens marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching, and small groups of 4-5 couples. Whether you and your spouse are struggling to get along or simply want to grow closer together, marriages in any condition will benefit.

**When:** Various groups meet throughout the week. Visit the Promo Table to sign up.

**Leader:** Bill (billdavis625@gmail.com) & Rita (ritadavis59@gmail.com) Davis

### Merge - Available Spring 2026

**Description:** Merge is a premarital discipleship ministry designed for engaged and seriously dating couples. It's a chance to seek wisdom and receive counsel about marriage in a safe, fun, and authentic environment. Merge addresses common questions and challenges from a biblical perspective over 8 weeks.

**When:** Various groups meet throughout the week. Visit the Promo Table to sign up.

**Leader:** Bill and Rita Davis (marriage@austinoakschurch.org)

# FOCUS GROUPS

Groups that are focused on an aspect of discipleship for a period of time.



## MEN'S GROUPS

### BetterMan “Core”

**Description:** This fall’s BetterMan Core is a 12-13 week journey pursuing godly, authentic manhood with a few other men. You will grow a deeper relationship with each other as you wrestle with the issues that challenge true manhood today and then set out on a journey toward godly manhood together.

**When:** Various groups meet throughout the week. Visit the Promo Table to sign up or scan the QR code on the bulletin boards, and sign up there.

**Contact:** Tim Janke (timothydjanke@gmail.com) or Chad McCartney (chad.mccartney@austinoakchurch.org)

### BetterMan “Defined”

**Prerequisite:** BetterMan Core (See above description)

**Description:** This fall’s “BetterMan Defined” curriculum consists of two different group options - both will consist of two parts, 5-week (each) follow-up series that are built on the BetterMan Core series and are deep dives into the key principles of biblical manhood. Based on each man’s preference, he will be placed in either: Part A) Courageously Follow God’s Word Excelling at God’s Work, or Part B) Protecting God’s Woman and Bettering God’s World.

**When:** Various groups meet throughout the week. Visit the Promo Table to sign up or scan the QR code on the bulletin boards, and sign up there.

**Leader:** Tim Janke (timothydjanke@gmail.com) or Chad McCartney (chad.mccartney@austinoakchurch.org)

# FOCUS GROUPS

Groups that are focused on an aspect of discipleship for a period of time.



## WOMEN'S GROUPS

### MOTHERS AND COMMUNITY (MAC)

**Description:** MAC is a place for moms to grow in their relationships with God, their families and one another. Our meetings are held bi-monthly throughout the academic year with additional playdates and Mom's Nights Out sprinkled in each month. MAC invites impactful and diverse speakers in, to equip moms and their young families on their parenting journey. MAC welcomes moms with children birth through elementary. Childcare is available for 6 months-6 years old, under 6 months are welcome to stay with mom in our meetings. Semester membership dues are based upon childcare needs; scholarships are available.

**When:** Bi-monthly, Friday meetings; 9:30-11:30am; AOC Community Hall

**Leader:** Hanna Luft & Suzanna Meringola  
(austinoakschurch.mac@gmail.com)

### Womens Bible Study

**Description:** AOC Women's Bible study is a great way to connect with other women for regular Bible study, prayer, and connection. Join us on Wednesday mornings or evenings to explore the timeless wisdom of the Bible through various studies and forge meaningful friendships with other AOC women. In-person and Zoom groups available.

**Contact:** michelle.hagens@austinoakschurch.org or visit the Promo Table to sign up.

Wednesday Morning, In-Person @ AOC; 9:30-11:30am (Childcare Provided)  
Leader: Ellen Canty

Wednesday Morning, Zoom Group; 9:30-11:30am  
Leaders: Barby Collier

Wednesday Evening, In-Person @ AOC; 7:00-8:30pm  
Leader: Kim Wheeler and Jennifer Wright, Vangie Orozco

# FOCUS GROUPS

Groups that are focused on an aspect of discipleship for a period of time.



## MINI-SESSIONS

### **AWARE**, Seeing and Loving People like Jesus

**Description:** Jesus pursued people. He challenged cultural norms and barriers. As we look at how Jesus loved people and multiplied his ministry, we must look at possible barriers we have created that keep us from reaching others who are not like us. AWARE is a 3 session series where we will evaluate our own perceptions and look at Jesus' example. The sessions will be practical, possibly uncomfortable at times, but it will be a safe place to discover without shame.

**When:** October, 12<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup>, November 2nd , 2025

**Leader:** Greg (gregrpope@yahoo.com) & Faith Pope (faith.pope@austinoakchurch.org)

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

A group of people who meet to live a Christ-centered life, commit to every aspect of missional living, and aim to multiply themselves.



## SUNDAYS AT AOC

### IMPACT GROUP

**Leader:** Carl Crowther, Scott Nance

**Contact:** carlkooncce@gmail.com, scott@nanceonline.net

**Time/Place:** Sunday @ 9:30 am; CLC 103

**Description:** Single men. Non-sermon based.

### RAISING TEENS GROUP

**Leader:** Mat & Beth Hames, Austin & Rochelle Bush, David & Leticia Ruth

**Contact:** mat@alpheusmedia.com, beth@alpheusmedia.com, austin\_andrew\_bush@yahoo.com,

**Time/Place:** Sunday @ 9:15-10:30am; CLC205

**Description:** For parents of kids in Youth Group, from preteen up to late teens. This is a Bible Study class all about families. We will focus on the journey of families through the adolescent years and beyond. Non-sermon based.

### JOINT HEIRS - MULTI-GEN BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER GROUP

**Leader:** Charlie & Arlene Beaman

**Contact:** bowbeaman@gmail.com

**Time/Place:** Sunday @ 9 am; CLC 208

**Description:** We meet in person as well as on zoom for our class. We enjoy in-depth Bible study with practical application and share our cares with prayers. We often fellowship together while enjoying great food. We are generally 50+ but welcome any age to our class! Non-sermon based.

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## SUNDAYS AT AOC

### **BARNABAS FELLOWSHIP**

**Leader:** Paul and Carla Moore

**Contact:** Paul (512-468-1028, pbmoore99@att.net) Carla (512-468-1026, cjgmoore@gmail.com)

**Time/Place:** Starting Sept. 8th Sundays @11:00 (currently we are meeting Sundays @ 9:00); CLC 203

**Description:** Our name reflects the desire to be “encouragers” of each other, to greet all who come with love and to support each other in prayer, love and fellowship. We tend to be “over 50”, but welcome any who come, with a desire to be multi-generational. We open our class with hymn singing. Cares and praises are shared in prayer time. We study books of the Bible, encourage open class discussion, all aimed at helping each of us grow in our personal walk with our Lord. Class members help teach and lead our studies. We have monthly gatherings of smaller groups, if so desired by any member, to get to know each other better. We are non-sermon based.

### **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

**Leader:** Robert Depwe, Nathan Murphy

**Contact:** Robert.Depwe@juno.com

**Time/Place:** Sunday @ 9:30-10:30am; CLC206

**Description:** All ages are invited to read through books of the Bible and pray for His Spirit to teach and empower us, that we might meet, know, and follow Jesus. We have discussion as we seek to find application and the born again life that God desires for His disciples.

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## WEEKDAYS AT AOC

### FRIENDSHIP BIBLE STUDY GROUP

**Leader:** Katherine Lee, Pat Marshall

**Contact:** kjcello@hotmail.com, pmarshall7711@yahoo.com

**Time/Place:** Mondays @ 10 am via Zoom

**Description:** Senior women growing together through Fellowship and Bible Study. The group is also mission-minded, supporting several missionaries. Sermon based.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP

**Leader:** Mike Middleton

**Contact:** mmiddleton1@austin.rr.com, (512) 596-7251

**Time/Place:** Wednesdays @ 7:00-9:00 pm; Triple Room #105-107

**Description:** We are open to adult men of any age who want to meet for food, authentic fellowship, encouragement, and discussion about God's word. A typical Wednesday night begins with a meal followed by Bible study and prayer. We listen to each other and we are committed to trusting and respecting each other in a relaxed environment where men are open to sharing their struggles and encouraging one another. Email us and we will send you information about the current Bible study and dinner plans for the week.

### SINGLE WOMEN 50+ GROUP

**Leader:** Leece Naxera

**Contact:** leece@dnet.net, 512-585-9148

**Time/Place:** Thursdays @ 6:30 pm; CLC Oaks Room

**Description:** We are a group of 50+ singles that study the Bible together and pray for one another. We eat out once a month and fellowship together. Non-sermon based.

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## KYLE/BUDA

### **SOUTH & FURTHER SOUTH GROUP**

**Leader:** Mandy & Doug Goss

**Contact:** Dougandmandy2012@att.net, 512-970-3170

**Time:** Every other Friday @ 6pm

**Description:** We are married, with kids from newborn to college age. We share a meal and disciple each other as we grow closer to Jesus.

### **KYLE MULTI-GENERATIONAL GROUP**

**Leader:** Macky & Rachel Macwan, Mark & Glynis Wentzel

**Contact:** mackymacwan@protonmail.com, rachelmacwan@gmail.com

**Time/Place:** Tuesdays 6:00-8:30 pm, Meadows at Kyle neighborhood

**Description:** A multi-generational and multi-cultural group of families, couples and individuals living in community with a heart for Global Missions. Sermon & Non-Sermon Based.

### **BUDA / KYLE YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP**

**Leader:** Brandon & Amanda Larner

**Contact:** brandonlerner93@gmail.com, mandachristine93@gmail.com

**Time:** Monday 7:30 pm

**Description:** A group of young couples with young kids who live in Buda/Kyle area. We meet every other week as a group. The men and women meet bi-weekly. We do a mix of sermon-based and non-sermon based study.

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## SOUTH AUSTIN

### SOUTHSIDE EMPTY NESTERS GROUP

**Leader:** James Wilson

**Contact:** ajwilson345@gmail.com

**Time:** First and Third Tuesdays of the month, evenings

**Description:** We are a group of older Christians who meet together to learn, pray, and support each other in our “empty nest” stage of life.

### WESTSIDE EMPTY NESTERS GROUP

**Leader:** Steve Jensen

**Contact:** ssjensen2@gmail.com

**Time:** First and Third Tuesdays of the month, evenings

**Description:** We are a group of older Christians who meet together to learn, pray, and support each other in our “empty nest” stage of life.

### SW YOUNG AND MULTIGEN BIBLE GROUP

**Leader:** Eric Quintana

**Contact:** eeq777@yahoo.com, 512-799-7777 (text)

**Time:** Tuesdays @ 7 pm

**Description:** Adults of all ages (currently 20s-40s), with a mix of singles and married. We spend 45 mins sharing our lives while enjoying food together, 45 mins in bible study, and 30 mins in prayer. We would love for you to join us! We have no childcare.

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## SOUTH AUSTIN

### TRAVIS COUNTRY COMMUNITY GROUP

**Leader:** Randy Carey

**Contact:** randolph.r.carey@gmail.com

**Time:** Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30pm

**Description:** Our group includes families with young children as well as single young adults. We begin our time together with a shared meal from 5:30 to 6:00 PM (dinner is provided). Afterward, the adults gather for prayer and discussion centered on the sermon while the children are cared for by a babysitter in a different room.

### MEN'S DEEP DIVE BIBLE STUDY

**Leader:** Eric Quintana

**Contact:** eeq777@yahoo.com, 512-799-7777 (text)

**Time:** Thursdays @ 7 pm

**Description:** Typically attended by guys in their 20s but any age is welcome if you wish to grow through a serious look in God's truth. The purpose is not simply knowledge but to see and know God as we walk through the Bible.

### SOUTH AUSTIN LIFE

**Leader:** Jared and Morgan Niermann

**Contact:** Jared (512-289-9794), Morgan (512-299-7334)

**Time:** Thursdays, 7:30pm

**Description:** Our group mainly consists of married couples with young kids. The men and women switch off meeting every other week. However, we aim to spend time together as a large group whenever we can! We are located at Menchaca and Slaughter. Sermon-based

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## SOUTH AUSTIN

### YOUNG ADULTS- SOUTH GROUP

**Leader:** Zach Lohbauer, Madison Rodriguez

**Contact:** maddyrr13@gmail.com, zlohbauer@gmail.com

**Time:** Tuesdays @ 7:15 pm

**Description:** AOC Young Adults is a community of believers in their 20's and 30's who are passionate about creating a refreshingly obedient, Christ-centered community. We meet to study God's word and enjoy fellowship together. Non-sermon based.

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# STUDENT MINISTRY SMALL GROUPS



## HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

**Contact:** [kel.casto@austinoakschurch.org](mailto:kel.casto@austinoakschurch.org)

**Website:** [www.austinoakschurch.org/aostudents](http://www.austinoakschurch.org/aostudents)

**Time/Place:** Wednesday @ 7 - 8:30 pm; CLC 207

**Description:** We gather around some refreshments, have a time of worship together, teach from the Bible on topics related to teens, and end the evening spending time together in small groups. All our small groups are grade and gender specific and are led by compassionate members of our church who love Jesus & appreciate each student's unique stage of life.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

**Contact:** [kel.casto@austinoakschurch.org](mailto:kel.casto@austinoakschurch.org)

**Website:** [www.austinoakschurch.org/aostudents](http://www.austinoakschurch.org/aostudents)

**Time/Place:** Wednesday @ 7 - 8:30 pm; CLC 207

**Description:** We gather around some refreshments, have a time of worship together, teach from the Bible on topics related to teens, and end the evening spending time together in small groups. All our small groups are grade and gender specific and are led by compassionate members of our church who love Jesus & appreciate each student's unique stage of life.

# CITY OUTREACH

Opportunities for you to partner  
with the outreach ministries AOC  
partners with.



## **FOSTER AND ADOPTION MINISTRY (FAM)**

**Description:** We exist to support and encourage current foster, adoptive and kinship parents in the greater Austin community. We provide information and resources to those looking to become foster or adoptive parents. We work to raise awareness and compassion in the church for children and families who have endured trauma.

**When:** Weekday evenings once a quarter (dinner and childcare provided)

**Leaders:** Anna and Cole Di Carlo (annalmatthews@gmail.com or 512.983.5014)

## **TRUCARE**

**Description:** Trucare exists to save unborn babies, share the gospel and support those in unplanned pregnancies with the purpose of seeing babies born and people reborn. At the TruCare Clinic we offer free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and option education in order to love, serve and speak truth to women with an unplanned pregnancy. At the TruCare Center we support women by offering parenting, spiritual and emotional support through our TruLife skills program from pregnancy through the first two years of their babies' life. Our clients meet with advocates for support and discipleship, which allows them to earn free material assistance.

We are always looking for women to partner with TruCare through volunteering as an advocate, especially if you are bilingual. Please email Cameron for more information at [cameron@trucarenetwork.org](mailto:cameron@trucarenetwork.org)

**When:** email Cameron for more information at [cameron@trucarenetwork.org](mailto:cameron@trucarenetwork.org)

**Leader:** Kristie Satterfield

# CITY OUTREACH

Opportunities for you to partner  
with the outreach ministries AOC  
partners with.



## GOD OF HOPE

**Description:** The God of Hope Ministries provides Christian care and discipleship to men and women incarcerated in Austin and the Central Texas area. This organization sponsors faith-based dormitories in local facilities and works directly with men and women who live there to introduce them to Jesus.

**When:** Reach out to Robert to discuss the different opportunities to serve.

**Leader:** Robert Dorrough (512-891-1649, [info@thegodofhope.org](mailto:info@thegodofhope.org))

## OAK HILL ALLIANCE

**Description:** The OHCA is an outreach to the poor and marginalized. We serve with Church Under the Bridge, Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, Community First Village, Camp Esperanza, Mission Possible, Foundation Communities, Oak Hill Community Alliance and other non-profits to facilitate Matthew 5:16 and Ephesians 2:10.

There are multiple service opportunities throughout the year. Contact Robert if you want to serve repeatedly or for a one-time event with your family or small group.

**When:** Contact Robert Depwe if you would like to be informed when opportunities arise around our city.

**Leader:** Robert Depwe (512-289-9255, [robert.depwe@juno.com](mailto:robert.depwe@juno.com))

# CHURCH MINISTRY

Opportunities for you to serve  
others in our church.



## HOSPITALITY

**Description:** The hospitality team is instrumental to welcome members and guests at AOC. Come be a part of the team of greeters, ushers, connectors and coffee lovers who are intentionally caring for anyone walking on campus. Opportunities are primarily Sunday mornings.

**When:** Fill out a Connect Form and indicate that you would like to serve on the Hospitality Team.

**Leader:** Karen Andrews ([karen.andrews@austinoakschurch.org](mailto:karen.andrews@austinoakschurch.org))

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Description:** There's the saying, "it takes a village to raise a child?" What better "village" than the church to support our AOC families! Our children's ministry needs many hands to make a real, lasting difference in the next generation. Whether a child at heart or a teen looking to serve, come be a part of a ministry all about reaching infants through 5th grade for Jesus.

Comfort the tiniest tots or teach a small group of elementary kids. Teaching and activity materials provided with all supplies; co-leader opportunities available as well. Serving on monthly rotations. Volunteers needed to help at the children's welcome desk on Sunday mornings too.

Your guidance and presence can make a lasting impact on young lives, fostering a sense of church community and planting God's true Word to grow into faithful followers of Jesus.

**When:** Fill out a Connect Form and indicate that you would like to serve on the Children's Ministry Team.

**Leader:** Courtney Casto ([courtney.casto@austinoakschurch.org](mailto:courtney.casto@austinoakschurch.org))

# CHURCH MINISTRY

Opportunities for you to serve  
others in our church.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Description:** The AOC Students Ministry exists to help all students meet, know, and follow Jesus. All 6th-12th grade students are invited to join us for our 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning student services, our 7:00 p.m. Wednesday night small groups, and special events throughout the year for times of friendship, discipleship, and spiritual growth!

If you are interested in serving in the students ministry, we are in need of small group leaders who can join us for both weekly gatherings and special events, food and resource providers for our weekly gatherings, and drivers for special events.

**When:** Fill out a Connect Form and indicate that you would like to serve on the Youth Ministry Team.

**Leader:** Kel Casto (Kel.casto@austinoakschurch.org)

## WORSHIP AND PRODUCTION

**Description:** The Austin Oaks Worship and Production team is a space where people are encouraged to serve with their unique creative gifts. This team includes worship, production, photography, videography, and graphic design. Opportunities include Sunday worship along with mid-week and seasonal activities.

**When:** Fill out a Connect Form and indicate that you would like to serve on the Worship and Production Team.

**Leader:** Guy Alain Muhire (alain@austinoakschurch.org)





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