



September 2024

"I feel like I know how to share Jesus with my friends and bring them along with me, but I want them to have a faith of their own that isn't dependent on me."

Charlie* is a sophomore who attended my bible study last year as a freshman. He came to college already with a strong faith in Jesus and was clearly passionate about sharing the love of Christ with others in his life. It felt like every other week at either bible study or 180 last year he'd bring a new friend with him! So far this semester, he has regularly brought his friends Keith* and Kevin*. Neither came from Christian backgrounds but seem to have come into at least a general agreement of who Jesus is and what he did for them with his death and resurrection.



As I've begun to meet with Charlie regularly outside of bible study this semester, I asked him how I could help him grow in his faith and his ability to live it out. He talked about his friends and said that he felt like he didn't know what to do with guys once they started coming to things with him. "I worry that they only show up to things or are interested in faith because of me, not Jesus."

What I learned that day was incredibly encouraging and describes many students at this stage of our movement. Charlie is wanting to see people become disciples and lifelong followers of Jesus, not just converts. So as we meet we are regularly looking at ways to make disciples who make disciples. And in the process, Charlie is becoming a disciple who makes disciples.

Please pray for Charlie, that as we meet he would feel equipped and able to come alongside Kevin and Keith to help them have a faith that is not dependent on others, but solely on the work of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit.

**Name changed for his privacy*

By the Numbers

So far this semester, we are seeing some unprecedented numbers along with some not seen since several years before the Covid-19 pandemic largely shut down Ohio University for over a year.

- We had around 950 students specifically ask for more information about Bible studies, the most ever! Not only that, that number is 300 higher than our former record of 650.
- In the first 3 weeks of Bible studies, we've seen 391 unique students attend at least once.
- Over 300 students were at our first weekly worship gathering, the highest number we've seen in at least 6 years.

Yours in Christ,

Clay + Emily

FAMILY UPDATE

Our fall has been jam packed and very busy along with sickness invading our house for a week or two, but a lot of good things are happening for our family! Both Elliott and Judah have adjusted to kindergarten and preschool pretty well so far. It's been fun to see them both talk about things they learn and the friends they are making! Wesley has also been growing well, gives us lots of big smiles, and is starting to laugh

Just a funny anecdote to share - We have been teaching the older boys The Lord's Prayer. One night, as we prayed, we reached the part of "...and deliver us from evil...". Judah, apparently comprehending for the first time, sat up and yelled, "What? Evil?? AHHH! Help!" I had to try very hard to keep from laughing as we paused to explain that the words were in fact expressing our desire for God to protect us from evil, and not that we were in immediate danger from evil finding us at our dining room table. The development of their own understanding of God and the world is one of the sweetest parts of being their parents!



Apple picking (in the rain) with Emily's sister, aka Auntie Sarah.

PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray specifically for Fall Retreat, happening October 19-21. This is a very important weekend for the ministry. Every year, this is where students come to accept Jesus, surrender to Christ's Lordship over their life, and make big decisions such as deciding to go on a Summer Mission trip. Please be in prayer for good weather, health for staff and students, and for the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts and minds of the students who will attend.
- Please pray for our fellow Cru staff who live in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. We know of at least a handful who have been directly impacted by the flooding there.