



# DISCIPLEMAKERS

*Reaching the campus...Reaching the world*



News from the Robergs' ministry with DiscipleMakers

August 19, 2025

## He has made everything beautiful in its time

A few weeks ago, a student shared a story at a DiscipleMakers meeting at Penn State. When he was little, the student said, he went to church and believed in God. But when he was 9 or 10 years old, his parents separated because of his father's severe anger issues and failure to care for the family.

One night, while his parents were fighting, his dad started screaming at his mom so angrily that the boy went and hid in the bathroom. Feeling powerless and afraid, he wept and cried out to God. "Lord, would you please protect my mom?" he prayed. "Would you save my family from this chaotic environment? Would you stop my dad?" But the fighting didn't stop, and the boy concluded that God was not only absent, but also just as uncaring as his own father.

Stories like this are common in our culture today, and college students are no exception. But God is both sovereign and faithful, and by His grace we see Him writing different endings to students' stories.

### Summer Internship

DiscipleMakers' mission is to raise up effective disciple-making disciples of Christ among college students. Every summer we invite students who have shown the desire and ability to make disciples on their own campuses to intern with us in State College. The internship allows these students to focus on ministry to other students for a whole summer, with support and training from our staff.

In some ways, the internship is like starting up a new campus ministry just for the summer. The interns take on all the responsibilities our campus staff handle during the school year, including leading Bible studies and holding "large group" meetings that include worship and teaching from the Word. At the beginning of the summer, our staff



Every summer we invite student leaders from our various campuses to intern with us over the summer. Our campus interns (above) spent the summer sharing the Word with students at Penn State. (Anthony is the second guy from the right.)

helped them hone their skills in these areas, with a focus on the book of Ecclesiastes since that was the book they would teach through at their large group meetings.

All these activities are of little value, however, without students taking part in them! So once their initial training was done, the interns spent much of their time on campus meeting students. Their approach was simple: go to a public space, strike up conversation with students, and look for people who are open to spiritual conversations.

There are many stories I could tell about the fruit of these efforts, but for now I will focus on an intern named Anthony and his ministry to a student I'll call "Lucas."

### Anthony and Lucas

Anthony and a fellow intern met Lucas in the student union building at Penn State. Lucas readily engaged with them on spiritual questions, but he also raised a number of objections to Christianity related to the pervasiveness of





One of the weekly large group meetings the interns led at Penn State during the summer.

evil and suffering in the world. Anthony couldn't help but think of Ecclesiastes as they talked, and the more they talked the clearer the connections became. When Anthony suggested that Ecclesiastes might shed light on many of his questions, Lucas was interested enough that he accepted Anthony's invitation to meet again to talk further.

During that second meeting, Lucas told Anthony that he'd come from a Christian background but felt he lacked a sense of God's presence in his life. He described a desire for a personal experience with God, something that would help him to know that God is real and cared about him. Anthony offered to help him toward this, and the two began to meet regularly and study the Bible together.

Later in the summer, Lucas attended the large group meeting when it was Anthony's turn to teach. As is fitting for a talk in Ecclesiastes, Anthony began with a story of his own encounter with evil and suffering in his life. The story he told was the story that I shared at the beginning of this letter. Anthony was the boy who had cried out to God in fear, and who came away from that experience of suffering believing that God was absent and uncaring.

But Anthony also shared how, in another moment of trial years later, God had shown him His active care and brought him to faith in Christ. He went on to point out that God had now given him the opportunity to teach from the Bible on the very topic that had been such a stumbling block for him as a child.

As Lucas and about 50 other students listened, Anthony explained the meaning of the passage in Ecclesiastes.

He repeated his main point for emphasis: "You'll never fully understand the seasons of your life, so surrender to the One who does." He also offered assurance from Ecclesiastes 3:11: "[God] has made everything beautiful in its time."

That evening, Lucas sent Anthony this text:

*"If there's any experience I'd attribute to a personal calling from God, it's meeting you and hearing you speak tonight. A lot of things had to work together to make today happen... If you believe that God is real, you should take pride in knowing that you're doing his work excellently. From the bottom of my heart, it was great to hear you speak tonight."*

Lucas is starting to see that God is more present than he had believed, but he has not yet reached the point of surrendering to the One who knows him and all the seasons of his life. His story is still developing.

Even so, we do know that God is at work. We're excited for the opportunity to see what He does by His Spirit when we go to campus and share His Word with students!

## Praise and Prayer

- Praise God for working in and through Anthony and the other interns!
- Pray that God would continue His work in Lucas, as well as other students the interns reached this summer.
- Pray for the fall semester that will start in just a few days. With classes beginning at many schools on August 24, the coming weeks are the most critical window for reaching new students *all year*. Pray for:
  - God to prepare students' hearts to hear His Word.
  - Perseverance for staff working long hours.
  - Encouragement for student leaders, especially for those to whom purposeful outreach is new and potentially scary.
  - Smooth logistics and good weather.

Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry!

Grace and peace,

*Brian & Cain*