



Melissa (bottom, right) with 4 of the 7 women she discipled. Daniel Jr. showing you he's 2 months!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- *For our team as we undergo lots of transitions over the summer—some staff leaving the team, other staff joining it.
- *For us to have more students, like Melissa, commit to being discipleship group leaders in the Fall.
- *For our returning students & graduating seniors to be lights for Christ in the market place & mission field.
- *For Daniel's reflux & napping to get better!



GOD OVERRIDES

"Don't invite anyone else to this group," I said at our first meeting, explaining the purposes & expectations for our newly formed discipleship group. I couldn't have been clearer....I had even put it in print! Most of the time, our ministry is very inclusive: "Invite your friends! Everyone—believers, non-believers, skeptics, etc.—is welcome!" But just like Jesus did, sometimes we have to limit our relationships for strategic purposes. The 5 women I spoke to were involved in the Greek system at CofC. As opposed to the outward focused, seeker friendly Bible study we had just launched, this was to be a group of committed women who wanted to be trained as Christian leaders & missionaries in their chapters. This required a safe environment where these women could be deeply vulnerable, so it was not open to visitors.

You can then imagine my surprise when one of the women showed up two weeks later with a new friend! I decided it wasn't the day to discuss our deepest darkest sin & figured this one visit wouldn't do any harm. As I spoke with her afterward, however, she was determined to join my discipleship group. Which she did...for the next 2 years. Unbeknownst to me at the time was that Melissa had not yet placed her faith in Christ. Fast forward to our Cru meeting last week & Melissa, now a senior, a true follower of Christ, & a committed Cru student leader, stood at the front of the room. She shared how important challenging Christian community, especially the relationships formed in our "D-group" had been in her college career. Over the past year, she has taken on the responsibilities of leading her own discipleship groups, passing the baton of spiritual leadership & multiplication on to underclassmen women. Afterward I saw four of the women she led huddled around her in a hug, thankful for how she's challenging them to a deeper & more committed walk with Christ. I hope to see them at the front of the room in a few years, passing the baton onto women they've led spiritually!

I often laugh about how God brought Melissa into my life & ministry, without any effort of my own (and indeed despite my best efforts otherwise!). I'm reminded that God is in control & that He can & will override my plans when needed. I'm so thankful that He does, as I would've missed out on a relationship with such a very special person & the privilege of helping her become all God has made her to be.