



## 2025 Information Sheet

“ If we do not die to ourselves, we cannot live to God, and he that does not live to God, is dead.”



GEORGE MACDONALD, 1860

### Purpose

The Aravah Discipleship School exists to equip God's people with the spiritual, theological, and cultural tools to faithfully disciple the nations of earth.

### About

The Aravah Discipleship School is a place for men and women to mature in godliness and develop a lifestyle of worshipping God and loving others. Our focus is to equip God's people with theological knowledge and practical skills to live godly lives worthy of the gospel, to share the Word accurately, and to disciple the world around them wherever they are in the world. This short time in the wilderness will lay a Christ-centered foundation for whatever God has next.

“Man’s chief end is ‘to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.’  
But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.”

C. S. LEWIS

## Objectives

- To equip the Christian with effective tools and life skills to serve Christ and fight sin, temptation, and the enemy.
- To deepen faith and knowledge of Christ and his Word.
- To prepare for a lifetime of worship and service, no matter their calling.
- To develop an attitude of courage, boldness, humility, love, grace, suffering, servitude, and worship.
- To foster godly relationships and provide a community of believers.
- To provide a place of solitude to seek after God without distraction.
- To encourage obedience to Christ's Great Commission.

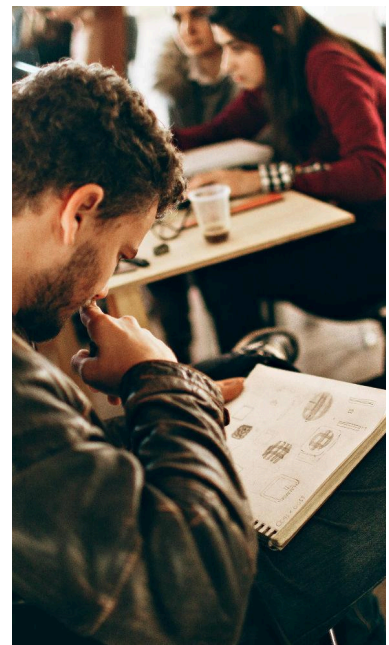
## Worship

Loving God is the ultimate goal of the Christian. Worship is displaying what God is worth, his value, in all circumstances. When we love God rightly and when we serve others with joy, we worship God. Everything we do is to be an act of worship to our Creator. So, it's important to know what true worship looks like. Our worship will continue for eternity. And that is precisely what we are calling others to. Our heart is for your heart to burst forth in worship to the Savior.

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27*

## Learn

Christians are commanded to develop their minds and grow in the knowledge of Christ. Handling God's Word rightly is a requirement. Our study program is meant to stretch your mind and faith. We encourage you to study and work hard. Depending on how long you are



with us, the topics will include: basic theology, OT & NT survey, worldview, church, missions, culture, and practical life skills.

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15*

## Serve

The Christian life is not just “me and Jesus.” Love for God and knowledge of God necessarily results in serving and loving your neighbor (1 John 4:19-21). Our program intends to move our love from heart and head into our hands and feet. There will be plenty of real-life ministry opportunities from spiritual to physical to emotional. We will do our best to equip you to obey God's call on your life in the real world no matter where you go after Aravah.

*“So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”*  
Colossians 1:10

## A PLACE FOR MATURING

Although, we cannot make you grow, or learn, or love, or mature, we can provide a place, mentors, and resources for those things to take place. Each day you will have the opportunity to read, journal, pray, learn, serve, and worship so take advantage of that magnificent opportunity.

Africa is a stunningly beautiful place. Take the time to soak in God's creation and enjoy his goodness. But there is a harsh side to Africa. Suffering is prevalent. You must learn how to live in supreme beauty and intense suffering at the same time.

Maturity is the ability to live appropriately, for God's glory, in all situations. When your knowledge of Christ meets real life experiences, you learn wisdom. Christians are to pursue maturity and wisdom—to know when and how to react in any situation, how to love God and others, to pray, to serve, to worship God through it all. This program is meant to facilitate that journey. Enjoy the ride!

## The Program

**Our program** is an informal mentorship-style, life on life, environment of holistic learning. The program will be split between academic work consisting of classroom lectures, reading and thinking, writing, and final exams; and also field ministry based on your skills—prayer, small groups, evangelism, and community development.

You can choose the focus:

- **A Month Out** provides experience of missionary life on the field for 1-3 months. This program is designed to provide cross-cultural experience and ministry opportunities while deepening your faith, building relationships, and discovering ways to best serve God with your gifts and talents he's given you.
- **An Internship** is our structured mentorship program for putting theological knowledge into practice. We provide a hands-on experience in various aspects of missionary life, church ministry, discipleship, outreach, service, leadership development, and more—all in a cross-cultural environment. Focuses more on knowledge and service: theology, family life, crossing cultures, and language acquisition.
- **A Gap Year** gives young adults a structured way to grow in faith, discipleship, and service. Our program helps deepen your relationship with Christ, build practical life skills, and prepare you for marriage, future ministry, or career paths. Focuses more on your personal growth in faith: maturity, discipleship, discovering God's will, & spiritual disciplines.

Regardless of your focus, our curriculum will affect your mind, heart, and hands. Meaning, there will be academics, spiritual disciplines, and service opportunities.

*Upon successful completion of Aravah Discipleship School you will receive a Certificate of Completion.*

**Subjects include:**

### HEART

- Right Worship
- Prayer

### HEAD

- Basic Doctrine
- OT & NT Survey

### HANDS

- Missionary Life
- Crossing-Culture

- Sabbath Rest
- Bible Study
- Journaling
- Worldview Training
- Discovering God's Will
- Ethics & Wisdom
- Manhood/Womanhood
- Evangelism
- Discipleship
- Work Ethic

## Core Values

When ministering in the Ethiopian context students should embody the missionary spirit of flexibility and humility to meet the needs of any given situation. These are the core values that Aravah embraces and strives to live out. We ask that you embrace them during your time as well, and we hope that by the end of your time with us, they will be yours as well.

1. **The Word of God.** We value Scripture because that is where we learn who God is, who we are, and how to worship him and serve others rightly. Our beliefs, thoughts, attitudes, and actions must all be informed and corrected by the Word.
2. **Right Worship.** Everything a believer does ought to be an act of worship to our great God. We die to ourselves as a living sacrifice to God. Our bodies, our minds, and our hearts must be aligned and oriented toward God—that is true worship.
3. **Prayer Works.** Prayer must not become simply what we do before we go out and minister. Prayer is Kingdom work and it is effective. As Christians we must make prayer the highest priority.
4. **Evangelism.** The lost are all around us and, 2,000 years later, the laborers are still few. The Great Commission begins with evangelism and moves onto discipleship. Christians must always be looking for gospel opportunities and be ready to give a reason for the hope within us.
5. **Discipleship.** The main command Christ gave was not to win the lost, but to disciple the entire world. That means teaching them to obey Christ in all things. Christians must dig in for the long-haul because that's a life-long process.
6. **Local Church.** The Church—that's us—is God's primary means to evangelize and disciple the nations. Saints are called to submit to the elders because they are caring for our souls. This is the place Christians are fed, cared for,

and equipped for the work of ministry. Then we serve the church with the various gifts Christ distributed. The local Church is responsible to carry out Christ's mission on earth, so we must hold it in high esteem.

7. **Unity.** One of the central messages of Christ was unity. A unified force is stronger and more effective than scattered individuals. So, functioning as a loving, committed team is an eloquent testimony of who we are following.
8. **Godly Relationships.** The entire Christian life is about relationships—missions is no exception. Believers are in eternal covenant with our Lord and his Bride. But we also interact with our family, teammates, leaders, coworkers, other missionaries, local believers, and people in the community. In humility, Christians are commanded to consider others better than ourselves, so that all our relationships reflect our love for God.
9. **Language & Cultural Acquisition.** It is critical to our witness and the proclamation of the gospel that we learn the language and culture of the host people group. Not only for ease of communication and living, but also in order to speak God's truth in such a way that it lands in the way we intend and doesn't bring *unnecessary* offense.
10. **Life-Long Learning.** To be a Christ follower is to be a student of the Word since that's where we learn about him. Learning is built in. Yes, all of us have something to teach and share, otherwise our work would be in vain, but we also have much to learn. None of us are experts and we will never fully master the language and culture, so we should always be learning. Approaching as a learner earns respect to be heard and sets us up as better to share what we know.
11. **Simpler Lifestyle.** Living like an Ethiopian, while noble, is truly impossible. You are not Ethiopian and you never can be. But as ministers of the gospel, we must not live like the wealthy Westerners we are. Striving to live on a minimal amount of possessions to do our work successfully, yet acknowledging that God blesses and gives comforts to his children, frees us from the bondage of material things and removes unnecessary hindrances to the gospel and barriers between us and Ethiopians.
12. **Foundations for Life.** Aravah cannot provide all the training one needs for their lifetime. Rather, we attempt to model a lifestyle of learning for a lifetime. So, our students are set to continue their journey of spiritual, emotional, mental, and relational growth long after classes let out.

## Program, Length, Age

The type of program—internship, gap year, or month out—and length of time spent with us is customizable to your preferences.

Currently, it's easiest with Ethiopian government regulations to stay from 1-6 months. After that, it gets a little tricky with visas, but we can work with you if you want to stay longer.



We suggest you stay for the longest you can in order to acclimate yourself to the environment, culture, and people, and to develop relationships, and to gain sufficient biblical knowledge.

**Age**—Our desire is to serve you best. While we are not picky about your age, people from 16-30 would find our program most helpful. Families or singles are welcome.

If your application is approved, candidates will be interviewed to determine whether Aravah is a good fit for you and to tailor the curriculum to suit your needs, abilities, and future plans.

## Why the Wilderness?

**Aravah** (הַעֲרָבָה) has multiple meanings, including:  
*Arid land, Wilderness, Plain, Willow tree, Cloud, and Heaven.*

The wilderness represents a time of spiritual testing and dependence on God, where one is forced to rely solely on His provision and guidance, often leading to a deeper faith and humility. The wilderness teaches us lessons we could not learn in the comfort of our homes. It humbles us by exposing our weakness, forcing us to turn to God alone for strength. It's a place where we relinquish control of our little kingdoms and allow God to reign. When we can come to the end of our natural strength and self-sufficiency we discover that our true source of strength is God. He is our King and we must follow his lead.





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Most of the Psalms were born in the wilderness. Most of the Epistles were written in a prison. The greatest thoughts of the greatest thinkers have all passed through fire. The greatest poets have “learned in suffering what they taught in song.” In bonds Bunyan lived the allegory that he afterwards wrote, and we may thank Bedford Jail for the Pilgrim’s Progress. Take comfort, afflicted Christian! When God is about to make pre-eminent use of a person, He puts them in the fire.”

GEORGE MACDONALD, 1860

The wilderness is a place of:

- **Dependence on God:** Being alone and weak forces individuals to rely completely on God's provision and guidance, since they lack earthly comforts.
- **Humility & Contrite Spirit:** The hardships of the wilderness can lead to a sense of humility and brokenness before God, recognizing one's own limitations.
- **Testing:** God tests and refines our faith in the wilderness. The Israelites failed their test, but the true Israel, Christ, succeeded in the wilderness on our behalf.
- **Solitude & Rest:** The wilderness does not always need to be a trial. It can also be an oasis. A place to find solitude and rest for your soul. Take a break from the hustle of life in Africa where time slows down.



- **Maturity:** Being in another environment, away from distractions aids the learning process. Africa is slow. There is plenty of time to think and process what you are studying.
- **Spiritual Growth:** While challenging, the wilderness can also be a time of significant spiritual growth and transformation. Seeing God's faithfulness and goodness, will bolster your faith. This is the ultimate goal and our prayer for you.

Apply today at [www.AscribeAndDeclare.com/Aravah](http://www.AscribeAndDeclare.com/Aravah)

Join us in Ambo, Ethiopia for a time of testing and training in Christian maturity while putting your hands and feet into action for the sake of the Great Commission.

Together for the King,



Matthew Adams

Director, Aravah Discipleship School



The Aravah Discipleship School is a ministry of Ascribe & Declare of Ethiopia.  
[www.AscribeAndDeclare.com](http://www.AscribeAndDeclare.com)

