

## Issachar Apprenticeship Community Covenant

As a member of the Issachar Center for Urban Leadership, I agree to join my brothers and sisters in Christ in honoring and keeping this covenant between us:

Because the Issachar Center (and its partner organizations & churches) are making a great investment in me as a young leader, I will, in turn, invest the best of my time, attention and energy during the upcoming year to this experience – to deepening my commitment as a follower of Jesus and a servant-leader in my community.

### Relationships and Personal Conduct

I agree to be open and honest in my relationships with other members of the community, including the Issachar Leadership team. I understand that we are an independent community, and that the quality of our experience depends largely upon the depth of our relationships. I will respect the needs of others, and seek to be a servant of all.

I will be a faithful member of a local church, and demonstrate that faithfulness through regular attendance, committed service, and financial support. (If I am not part of a church upon entering the Issachar Center, I will work with the leadership team to choose a church.)

I will strive to live in a way that reflects my commitment as a follower of Jesus. Although Issachar is a grace-filled community (as opposed to a legalistic one), we also recognize that there are moral guidelines offered by Scripture to help us live well, honor God, and edify one another. Without spelling those guidelines out in great detail, there are some basic commitments that are required of those who live at Issachar: I will practice sexual purity; I will not bring alcohol or drugs into the community or abuse them in any context; I will respect others and their property.

Recognizing that other people are watching the way I live (including young people who recognize me as an emerging leader), I will live in such a way as to avoid the appearance of evil, and keep myself from situations that tempt me beyond my ability to practice self-control. If I enter the apartment of a person of the opposite sex, it will be in a group (not as a couple), and the door will be left open for others to see.

Recognizing that all people fall short of their moral commitments at times, we will extend grace and forgiveness to one another. I recognize the benefit of confession and openness to weaken the power of sin in my life. And I invite others to hold me accountable to live well.

## Issachar Apartments

I understand that part of the Issachar experience involves living in an apartment in the Issachar building. Because people have generously given money to subsidize my rent at Issachar, I will help carry the load of keeping our building clean and well maintained, and will help make the building a home for all of us. I agree to pay any expenses for which I am responsible in a timely manner, to do my best to keep my apartment clean and well maintained, to live in such a way that keeps building expenses at a minimum (e.g. turning off lights, turning down heat, taking care of appliances, etc.), and to share the rights and responsibilities of all members in the apartment community.

I further understand that if I stop fully participating in the Issachar discipleship program at any time during the year, I forfeit my right to live in the building, and will give my notice and vacate the apartment according to the conditions of the residential agreement.

## Time Commitment

The Issachar experience is a big time commitment, and I am willing to build other aspects of my life (work, recreation, relationships) around this commitment. I will enter into the teaching, discussions, meals and ministry experiences at Issachar with my whole being.

I am committed to participating in every aspect of the Issachar experience, which will include:

- Four gatherings/week for training, scriptural formation, and academic coaching (the specific schedule can be subject to change).
- Participation in the leadership of a ministry team in my community or at a local school (6-8 hours/week, varying with my level of responsibility).
- Occasional retreats/camps during the year that could be part of my Issachar and/or Vocational Exploration responsibilities.
- Occasional participation in public forums, community meetings, or public actions to bring about change in our city.

I understand that Issachar is, at minimum, a two-year experience. I commit myself to completing the entire program, although we will re-evaluate after each semester to determine if I should continue to be part of the program.

## Higher Education

An important part of the Issachar experience is being a student at a local university (or trade school). I recognize that people are investing a great deal in my education, and I am committed to attending class faithfully, studying hard, doing my very best not only to pass but to excel – and to represent Issachar (and my church or ministry organization) well on the college campus. This might become difficult at times. But I'm not going to give up! And I recognize that Issachar (the staff, my fellow community members), my church/ministry, and the university all have people who are willing to help me succeed. I pledge to reach out for that help when I need it.

## With Christ as our example...

Finally, I realize that there are many aspects of living, studying and serving within a Christian community that cannot be anticipated and are not covered in this agreement. I am committed to being part of the Issachar family. I'm willing to go the extra mile for the sake of the group. I am a disciple of Christ – my own needs are not the most important factor. I embrace the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 2:1-11:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, and consolation from his love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, have the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. Who though one with God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend on heaven and earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

With this great encouragement in mind, I commit myself as a member of the Issachar Community, and seal this covenant by signing my name below.

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Printed Name

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Signed Name

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Date