



# LEADING FROM THE OVERFLOW

By **Jessica Orso**  
Discipleship Ministry Associate

Come you weary heart now to Jesus  
Come you anxious soul now and see  
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

This is how the song, *The Goodness of Jesus*, began as Kara Fincher, Associate Minister to College Students, opened a packed Chapel of worshippers. The room represented all age group ministries at Dawson with a shared calling—to teach or lead in Sunday Life Groups.

As I looked around, I was overwhelmed with gratitude for the gifts represented in the room. Seasoned pillars of the church rubbing shoulders with newly called high schoolers with the same mission. And also that we had added an additional row of chairs at the last minute.

Emilia Posada graciously set the tone of the evening by reading our focus Scripture John 10:1-10 in Spanish, beautifully reminding us that though we may be divided amongst four services, two languages, and 115 different Life Groups on Sunday morning, we are still one church.

Attendees were guided through songs of worship music with Kara and John Woods, our Music & Worship Pastor, and with times of meditative prayer led by Kristen Torres, our Minister of Spiritual Development. It was also our first opportunity to hear a message from our new Discipleship Pastor, Jonathan Propes. Intentional pausing throughout the service brought leaders into journaling, some writing a few bullet points, some using the pause to really compose their thoughts.

Breakouts followed where each age group could meet with their age group ministers. Some age groups used their breakout time for answering questions that ironed out the year ahead. Some used the time to introduce new systems to better improve how Life Groups function.

Others focused more on the gift of *Deeper* by Dane Ortlund (which was given to all our leaders of all groups). These sessions provide an opportunity to reset and reconnect with other leaders, to feel equipped for the season ahead, and hear from others about what works best in their space.

The night ended with a fellowship dinner, and while the leaders from all the different age groups mingled and shared a family style meal together, I was struck by how big and how historic Dawson is. Families are represented here in this room. Generations are represented here in this room. But these people, these leaders, make our big old church feel small and fresh.

God uses these people as hands that love and guide our members. God uses these people as the voice that teaches His word and counsels His brokenhearted. Not a perfect one in the bunch, but God uses these people to care for His sheep. God is here, and His word is living and active in the hands of our leadership and church.

What a gift it is to have such an impressive group of leaders that are so talented in so many ways, and what a beautiful complement to our Discipleship Team.



Jessica Orso and her husband, John, have three children, Mena, Jake, and Evelyn. Jessica began volunteering with Dawson's Preschool Ministry in 2007. Since then, she has enjoyed working with the Day School, Dawson Kids, and the FRC. She now hopes to use her love of connecting family ministries as Discipleship Ministry Associate.