

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

-2 Timothy 2:1-2

SIERRA+



Mentoring

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“Would you mentor me?”

Mentoring is as old as civilization itself. Through this natural relational process, experience and values pass from one generation to another. Mentoring took place among Old Testament prophets (Eli and Samuel, Elijah and Elisha) and leaders (Moses and Joshua), and New Testament leaders (Barnabas and Paul, Paul and Timothy). Throughout history, mentoring was the primary means of passing on knowledge and skills in every field—from Greek philosophers to Sailors—and in every culture. But in the modern age the learning process shifted. It now relies primarily on computers, classrooms, books, and videos. Thus, today the *relational connection between the knowledge-and-experience give and the receiver has weakened or is nonexistent.*

Society today is rediscovering that the process of learning and maturing needs time and many kinds of relationships. The “self-made” man or woman is a myth and, though some claim it, few aspire to it. It leaves people relationally deficient and narrow-minded. The resurgence of mentoring in virtually every occupational field and area of life is a response to this discovery. “Please mentor me,” is the spoken and unspoken request expressed by so many. What do they mean? How do people get it?... Do it?”

-J. Robert Clinton & Paul D. Stanley, Connecting; The Mentoring Relationships You Need To Succeed In Life, pp. 17-18.

Mentoring

Our definition: *Mentoring is the formation and development of a one to one relationship for sharing life experiences and personal spiritual growth.*

Christian Mentoring Objectives:

1. To deepen personal commitment and obedience to Christ.
2. To experience disciplined commitment toward personal spiritual growth.
3. To affirm God's truth and wisdom in sharing our life experience.
4. To be strengthened through affirmation and personal accountability.
5. To gain confidence in living a committed Christian life.
6. To develop an awareness of the Holy Spirit's power and presence and to increase our willingness to be guided by the Holy Spirit.
7. To become a potential mentor for someone else.

The Ten Commandments of Mentoring

1. Establish the relationship – Develops over time, most will not grow to an intimate level and do not need to.
2. Agree on the purpose of the relationship – Be clear about expectations. Should be expressed, negotiated and agreed upon at the beginning.
3. Determine the regularity of interaction – Determine the frequency, time and place. Discuss availability for impromptu interactions.
4. Determine the type of accountability – Agree on how you will establish and monitor mentoring tasks, i.e., study material, scripture memorization, interacting with another person, etc. Monitoring could include scheduled phone calls, asking probing questions during meeting or a planned evaluation time.
5. Set up communication mechanisms – When the mentor sees an area of concern, how will this be communicated; “If I see or learn of an area of need or concern for you – and it may be negative – how and when do you want me to communicate it to you?”
6. Clarify the level of confidentiality – Should be discussed at the beginning. This will vary according to individual personalities. Make it clear when something you share should be treated as confidential.
7. Set the life cycle of the relationship–Avoid open-ended mentoring relationships. Shorter time frames with specific goals tend to be more successful.
8. Evaluate the relationship periodically – Check in to see if the relationship is meeting your expectations. Evaluation forms will be sent both to the mentor and the mentoree.
9. Modify expectations – to fit the real life mentoring situation. Recognize that you will seldom reach IDEAL expectations, but you will probably reach REALISTIC expectations. Adjust your expectations over time as need be.
10. Bring closure to the relationship – “Begin with the end in mind.” Recognize how/when growth has occurred. Perhaps an on-going friendship will result.

Mentoring is a distinct way to stay spiritually strong and grow in faith. Because followers of Christ are uniquely gifted and at different places on their faith journey, mentoring is a vital component of our discipleship ministry.

Mentoring

- *Develop your relationship with Christ and a fellow Christian*
- *Be strengthened through affirmation and accountability*
- *Increase awareness of the Holy Spirit's power and guidance*
- *Typical commitment is 3 months*
- *Meet with a mature Christian one-on-one*
- *Bi-weekly meetings, with check-in by email or phone*

Mentor pairings usually commit to reading a book specific to the area of growth desired. Growth areas may include: prayer, journaling, spiritual autobiography, witnessing and spiritual gifts. Mentor pairings can also involve making a commitment to acquire a habit of daily Scripture reading through a Bible Reading Plan.



Sign up today:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Place this form in the Offering Plate, or bring it to the church office.

For more information, contact:

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