

Tips for Effective Mentoring

Remember that what you're engaging in is a time-tested process for spiritual growth! Think of Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and the Twelve, Paul and Timothy.

Have no agenda except your mentee's growth in Christ.

- Different journeys, detours— Recognize that this is a different person with their own relationship with God. Their story isn't going to look the same as yours.
- Trust that God is faithful even when you can't see what he's doing! Remember that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed or leaven—starts small and then explodes with impact.

Be patient with the slow pace of building a relationship. It takes time to build trust! Remember that you have to invest time before a mentee will turn to you when a crisis comes.

Encourage your mentee in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Scripture reading, service, and being engaged in the faith community. We want to draw them into Christ and his body, the church, not to ourselves.

Be ready for silence and awkwardness.

Listen without needing to develop all the answers. Ask open-ended questions to better understand what your mentee is sharing with you.

- Examples: *Why do you think you felt that way? What do you think God might be doing in this situation? How do you think this passage touches on what you're talking about?*

Be careful to maintain confidentiality!

When meeting with teens:

- You don't just have to sit and talk face to face. Other ways to build a relationship: running errands, doing activities, going to their performances/games, inviting their friends if appropriate
- Be careful not to undermine parents, even if you disagree with their parenting choices.

Be open!

- Be open to the ways God will teach and stretch you through the mentoring relationship. This is an invitation to grow in your faith and trust, laying aside the need to be the hero/rescuer, or learning to be bold when God calls you to speak truth.
- Be open to the new conversations/topics your mentee will introduce you to! You might end up reading books you wouldn't have read otherwise, or listening to different music. The process of getting to know another person can be fun!