

MENTORING VS. DISCIPLESHIP

Often there is a misconception that mentoring is no different than discipleship. Observe some of the differences in the list below. Notice that though some overlaps do exist, mentoring involves a long-term relationship and discipleship strives for short-term mastery of content.

DISCIPLESHIP

Focus:

- Discippler's agenda
- Content
- Spiritual disciplines

- Discippler is a teacher/professor
- Interchange is based on content
- Usually short-term commitment
- Offers academic mastery
- Requires only respect

MENTORING

Focus:

- Mentee's agenda
- Supportive relationship
- Whole life counsel

- Mentor is a wise, experienced friend
- Interchange is based on relationships
- Ideally, a long-term commitment
- Offers practical life experience
- Requires positive, personal relationship

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Be imitators of me,
as I am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

MENTORING IS
PROFOUNDLY SIMPLE...
...AND PROFOUNDLY SIGNIFICANT.

"I was blessed with great parents. I had people who poured into my life. Those people really made a difference. It makes you wonder...what happens to people who don't have mentors? We don't realize that it is not fantastic things that kids need. They just need the every day nuts-and-bolts guidance and good direction. More than anything, they just need someone to encourage them and believe in them."

Tony Dungy

Mentoring Resource

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Male
Mentoring

at Bethel

GUIDE TO MENTORING

WHY MENTORING?

Are you looking to have a meaningful purpose in life? Do you want to experience the satisfaction of leading a mentee through life's trials by example instead of by trial and error? Consider being a mentor!

What is Mentoring By Definition:

Mentoring is a long-term relationship in which a mentor helps a mentee reach his God-given potential.

A Mentor is:

- a responsible and caring friend
- a role model
- a patient listener
- an advocate
- a nurturer of possibilities

A Mentor is not:

- a parent or guardian
- a disciplinarian
- a money machine
- a savior

WHAT IS A MENTOR:

Mentors guide, motivate and hold someone accountable. It is about bringing young men to maturity. A Christian mentor centers everything on Christ.

Mentor Tools

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR MENTEE?

Talk and listen. Have him join you in normal activities and errands. Take him to an activity/event. Do "Life Skills" stuff with them. Participate in mentoring group activities.

HOW TO LOOK FOR A MENTOR:

- Define the essence of what you need from him.
- Review ideal mentor checklist.
- Make a list of top three candidates.
- Review definition of mentoring and who best fits.
- Pray and ask God to make him clear.

WHY BE MENTORED?

Do you long for a person who can give you perspective, wisdom, support and guidance as you grow to your full potential in Christ? Then you are looking for a mentor!

MENTEE BENEFITS:

- Emotional support: Knowing that you don't have to go at it alone
- Develop confidence to succeed in life's challenges

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A MENTEE

- is teachable
- one who respects and admires you
- self-motivated
- comfortable around you
- easy to believe in

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17

Sometimes mentors take the first step by approaching a mentee; however, a mentor may not feel comfortable saying, "I'd like to be your mentor." The more common approach is for the mentee to ask, "Will you mentor me?" The key is not to wait, but **initiate** the relationship.

Common Mentoring Questions

1. Does a mentor have to be perfectly mature, an ideal model of the Christian faith and an extreme success to be a mentor?

No mentor is perfect! Each mentor only needs to be stronger in some areas than the mentee in order to be a big help. At the same time, if the mentor has a major problem, it may be difficult to lead a mentee in some areas. That is why, ideally, each mentor has one or more mentors of his own.

2. How much time does a mentoring relationship require?

Each mentoring relationship takes a different amount of time. Some people can start out meeting once a week, some once a month and some once a quarter. If you want to reduce frustration or tension in a mentoring relationship, it is important to spell out your expectations as clearly as possible at the outset.

3. At what age should I begin being mentored by someone?

Mentoring can begin at the age in which mentees have clear goals they want to reach. This may begin as early as age 16.