

YBL Jackson Mentoring

Why Mentoring?

In life, as in business, making the right decisions is essential for success and longevity. Whether it be balancing career and family, starting or losing a business, the right career path, or personal issues, our mentoring program will connect you with a seasoned godly man that will walk with you for a season to help you in your area of desired growth.

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” II Timothy 2: 1-2

“Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17

“Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning.” Proverbs 9:9

Types of Mentoring Relationships

- Spiritual (Looking for a Godly man to help with questions about Christianity)
- Business (Looking for advice and instruction on career)
- Relational/Family (Looking for information on family or relationship with wife/girlfriend)
- Personal (Looking for advice on growing as a man, making decisions, leadership)

Mentor Best Practices

1. Be spiritually prepared for your mentoring meetings.
2. Get to know your mentee and build trust in the new relationship.
3. Manage expectations: Clearly identify goals with mentee.
4. Recognize your role: There are several different types of mentors so carefully consider what your mentee needs: career guidance, relational/life skills, spiritual guidance
5. Determine an initial timeline for the mentoring relationship that provides an early opportunity for evaluation. (YBL recommends a 3 to 6-month mentoring relationship.)
6. Model prayer with your mentee.
7. Show your mentee how the Bible can be used to find wisdom and guidance.
8. Use a time frame of 45 minutes to 1 hour for your meetings.
9. Determine how you will handle regular communication with your mentee.

A good mentor will:

- push you harder than you expected
- guide you with better questions
- expect continuous improvement
- dare you to dream big
- challenge assumptions
- be a lifelong student
- appreciate self-taught mentees
- will teach you how to think, not what to think

Mentoring for Belhaven Students

1. Get to know them and develop a friendship.
2. Find out what their desire is for the mentoring relationship.
3. Gain an understanding of what they want to do after graduation.
4. Help them with resume and networking.
5. Ask challenging questions to help them clarify the next steps in life.
6. Talk about their faith journey as a part of the overall picture of work and family.
7. Help them understand that their job (work) is a great platform for ministry.

Mentoring for YBL Businessmen

1. Determine the mentoring need and a specific, agreed on plan to attack the issue.
2. Leverage accountability.
3. Communicate regularly about how things are going.
4. Evaluate often.
5. Ask challenging questions that will lead the mentee to think critically.
6. Confront in love when necessary.

Resources

Following are some different resources that will help you as you prepare to step into your role as a mentor.

As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship - Howard G. Hendricks, William D. Hendricks

Mentoring 101: What Every Leader Needs to Know – John Maxwell

Mentor Like Jesus – Regi Campbell

Mentoring to Develop Disciples and Leaders – John Mallison

What Does a Spiritual Mentor Do in the Life of a Christian? By David Peach

There are many examples of spiritual mentors in the Bible. While the word mentor is not used in the pages of Scripture, the concept of a mentor is evident in the life of Christ with His disciples. Then they became mentors to others whom they taught.

A spiritual mentoring relationship is not like an apprenticeship where the apprentice learns a skill from the teacher. Spiritual mentoring is largely about modeling a mature Christian life and being there for the student when questions arise. This does not mean that the teacher is perfect, but that he has more knowledge and experience with the Word of God and is seeking to live a victorious Christian life.

Here are some things that a spiritual mentor does that we see in the Bible. As you consider mentoring someone, use these principles as guidelines in this important relationship.

A Spiritual Mentor Teaches

A spiritual mentor is essentially a teacher. This is less of a “training for a task” type teaching as it is imparting knowledge and jointly discovering answers to questions the mentee has. This teaching should include the basic doctrines of the Bible: God, Jesus, man, sin, salvation, etc. The mentor does not have to be an expert on these topics, but he should be able to answer basic questions or know where to find the answers. Many times, the best teaching comes from researching together to find the answers from God’s Word (2 Timothy 2:15).

A Spiritual Mentor Is an Example

Our Lord Jesus Christ was the perfect example. He taught His disciples to follow Him and mimic Him by living with them (John 1:38, 39). Jesus asked the disciples to put away their current occupations to walk alongside Him and learn from Him (Matthew 4:18-22).

The Apostle Paul said that his followers should look to him as an example in the same way he looked to Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). This is not arrogance on Paul’s part. It is simply a principle of spiritual mentorship. The student needs an example to follow and the teacher needs to be the best one he knows how to be (2 Thessalonians 3:9). Again, this does not mean the teacher will never make a mistake, it simply means that the teacher will strive to be a good example.

A Spiritual Mentor Prays for The Disciple

The spiritual mentor does not only model the Christian life, he should pray for the student. This is where spiritual battles are won and lost. Paul opened many of his letters with the comment that he has prayed for the believers he is trying to teach (Philippians 1:3-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3; 3:10-13; etc.).

As Christians we say we believe in the power of prayer, but how often are we engaged in serious prayer for others? We should pray that God would give us a person we can mentor as well as

pray for that person through the process. As the mentor teaches the student, he should be praying for the student to understand and continue to have an interest in learning the principles of the Bible.

A Spiritual Mentor Encourages Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth does not happen in a vacuum. We can have all kinds of knowledge, but unless we put it into practice we don't have any proof of learning. In 1 Thessalonians Paul taught the believers to have right relationships with one another. He pointed out some brothers and sisters by name holding them up as an example of Christian maturity (1 Thessalonians 3:2-6). Other times he encouraged the church to grow in love (1 Thessalonians 4:9, 10), to comfort, encourage, respect and support one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11-15).

In reading the book of 1 Thessalonians—which is a great book from which to draw out principles of spiritual mentoring—we can see that Paul uses the way we treat one another as Christians as signs of spiritual maturity. A spiritual mentor should encourage the student to learn how to deal kindly and godly towards other people.

A Spiritual Mentor Trains Them to Train Others

One of the greatest joys of a spiritual mentor is to see his disciple turn around and begin mentoring others. Paul told his disciple Timothy that the things Timothy learned from Paul should be taught to others. But the process does not stop there. Paul said that Timothy should train his disciples to train other disciples (2 Timothy 2:2).