



STORIES AND RITUALS



Overview for Mentors

The Stories & Rituals: Meaningful Mentoring curriculum is designed to engage mentees and mentors alike in a spiritual journey that will strengthen and enrich the lives of everyone involved in the process. Mentoring is a time marked by deep exploration of the faith and mentees can personally live into their faith. This mentoring process is designed to be fun, intriguing, revealing, and contemplative. Each lesson will contain a combination of these four elements, some more than others. Participation in the mentoring process is completely optional and driven by our relationships. Having a pre-established relationship does not determine a successful mentoring experience. Intentionality determines the length and depth of mentoring experiences.

Who is a Mentor?

A mentor is an adult Christian who is a spiritual friend and advisor to one or more mentees (*usually a younger maturing Christian*). A mentor is a mature adult who is maturing as a Christian and is willing and able to talk to a youth about their experience of God. A mentor models the living of the Christian life for their mentee. Ideally, when a mentee has a question about what a Christian would do in any given set of circumstances, he or she ought to be able to look at the life of his or her mentor in search for the answer.

Who is a Mentee?

A mentee is a person, typically a youth, who is receiving instruction in the fundamentals of the Christian life and faith. This person should approach this process with a ready and willing heart. The key to their success is openness and curiosity.

What is the Mentoring Experience?

During our baptism, the vows which make us all a child of God were taken for each of us by parents and godparents who agreed to be responsible for seeing that their godchildren are raised in the Christian faith. Throughout the rest of our lives, we are seeking meaning and direction for us to take those responsibilities on ourselves. Through the mentoring process, we are guided to face questions and situations that force us to come face-to-face with important questions about our own faith journey. The goal of this journey is that your mentee has a new-found ownership in their personal faith by your final mentoring lesson. For many, the decision to be confirmed in the Church marks the moment in which one begins the process of living the Christian life, no longer as child but as an adult. This curriculum has been used quite successfully as a supplement to the confirmation process. However, it is not limited to other programs. It has been designed to be a “stand alone” program intended for use at any age, with any mentor and mentee. This process is one of developing skills and acquiring knowledge in the Christian tradition.

Mentor Basics:

A mentor should always be:

- ...praying continually for your mentee.
- ...helping your mentee face the transition of the mentoring process.
- ...relating to your mentee in a caring, responsible way.
- ...helping your mentee apply the lessons learned through the mentoring process.
- ...sharing with your mentee your own spiritual journey.
- ...helping your mentee discover the talents God has given them.
- ...a good friend and listener.

How often should I meet with my mentee?

For one-on-one mentoring: Once a month.

Additional questions

These questions will help you generate a conversation or even go “deeper” with your mentee:

- Who God is for you?
- What is prayer? Why do we pray?
- What makes Christianity unique in relation to other religions?
- What stood out to you or impacted you the most from last week’s sermon?
- What is their favorite (least favorite) part of church?
- Does any part of the Christian life-style confuse you?
- What would you like to know more about?

Tips for getting started:

- Be supportive and positive
- Get Acquainted—spend time together, getting to know one another
- Explore mutual interests (sports, music, run, etc.)
- Talk about your families (parents, brothers, sisters, etc.)
- Talk about your church background
- Read and discuss a story about Jesus together
- Talk about what Christianity means

Other Activities:

Not all meetings need to be discussions. You may want to spend time together on one or more of the following activities:

- Attend a church activity together, ex. a special worship service
- Attend church fellowship events together
- Attend a relevant concert, movie or sports event together
- Participate in an additional outreach activity together

