



# STORIES **AND** RITUALS

## *Meaningful* **MENTORING**

### LESSON 1

#### **Stories & Rituals: Meaningful Mentoring**

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by the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

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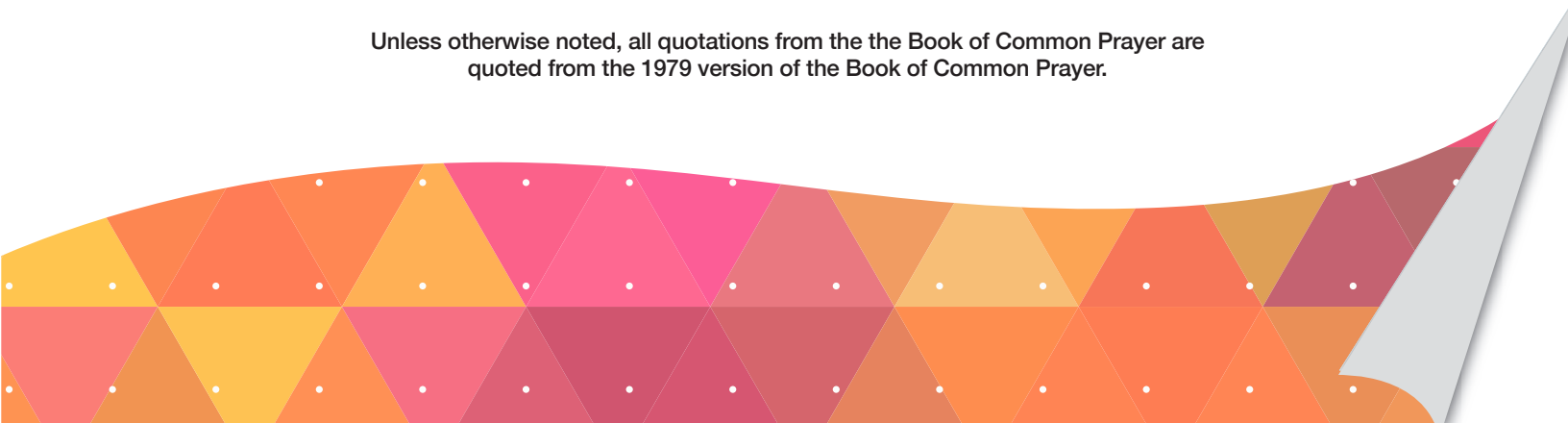
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# MEANINGFUL MENTORING

## Mentor Brunch

**Lesson Focus:** Transparency (1 John 4:7-21)

**Lesson Goal:** To establish a meaningful relationship with your mentee.

**Activity:** Take your mentee to brunch.

**Duration of Lesson:** 60-90 minutes

## Materials Needed

- Lesson Sheet 1.1 (*Mentoring Brunch Questionnaire*)
- Pencils or pens
- Camera or phone with the ability to take pictures (*optional*)

# LESSON OVERVIEW



## The Story and the Ritual

This lesson will help you and your mentee get to know each other and develop a relationship. Today, you will each share your personal stories as you fill out the Mentor Brunch Questionnaire.

The Mentor Brunch Questionnaire is not meant to feel like a job interview; rather, it is meant to be like a time that you are catching up with an old friend. The goal of this experience is for your mentee to feel that you are approachable, friendly, and that you care. Through transparency, your mentee will see that you are different than “other adults.” You are taking time out of your day (and your life) to learn about them.



## What's the Focus?

Transparency is an important part of building a relationship founded on trust. If your favorite subject was AP Chemistry because you loved the periodic table, then tell your mentee that. The questionnaire and ritual is meant to find points of commonality between you and your mentee, and begin to make them apparent to both of you. Not everyone loves sports, or cars, or school. We want to learn what each student likes and use these things as vehicles to show them God's love. In doing this, we follow the example of Jesus who loved us and showed us love before, long before, we loved Him. (1 John 4:19).



## What's the Point?

The foundation to every relationship is trust. Over the course of the year, mentees will learn that they can trust you by your consistency and by the way that you live. Do you mean what you say, say what you mean, and live the way that you talk? They need an adult in their life who will help guide them along and hold them accountable when they stumble and fall. This relationship may (and probably will) not be instantaneous. You may not see the fruits of your labor for your next few mentoring sessions. That's okay. Stay consistent.

The intention of this mentoring session is to learn about each other. Whether you have known your mentee since birth or are just starting a new relationship with them, this brunch marks the beginning of your intentional spiritual relationship as their mentor and guide.



## Preparing for Your Lesson

Plan a time for you and your mentee to meet for brunch. If possible, plan to meet after attending a worship service together. Choose a brunch location together, or let your mentee choose. Make plans for traveling to and from your brunch location (remember to follow all Safe Church guidelines and procedures). Make two copies of Lesson Sheet 1.1 (Mentor Brunch Questionnaire) to bring with you. Look over the questionnaire in advance and familiarize yourself with the questions.

# THE LESSON

- Meet with your mentee on your designated date and time. If you are traveling to your brunch location together, follow all necessary Safe Church policies and procedures (see *the Suggested Safe Church Guidelines supplement for sample policies and procedures*).
- Find a spot in the restaurant to sit, eat, and have a conversation. Choose a spot where you can sit and listen to each other talk.
- Introduce yourself, and order your brunch.
- Give your mentee one copy of Lesson Sheet 1.1. Keep the second copy for yourself.
- Complete the questionnaire using pens or pencils. Complete the sheet by taking turns and asking the questions of each other.
- After you complete the questionnaire, or as you are eating, make conversation. Allow the conversation to go in any direction. This is an opportunity for you to share your story and allow your mentee to share theirs. **If you need some starter points for your discussions, here are some ideas:**
  1. Were there any similarities between our two questionnaires? What were they?
  2. Pick one of your “favorite” things. Why do you like this thing so much?
  3. What are you most excited about for this year? What are you most nervous about?
- Close your time together in prayer. Thank God for your relationship and for the opportunity for you to get to know each other.
- If possible, plan the next date and time you will meet and write these times in the space provided on Lesson Sheet 1.1. Also set a date that can serve as a “Plan B,” or backup, meeting (*just in case something happens and you can’t meet on the first date you picked*).
- If you want to document your time together, take a photo of you and your mentee before you leave the brunch location.
- If you are transporting your mentee home, follow all necessary Safe Church policies and procedures.

# WRAPPING UP

Take a few moments to reflect on your mentoring experience. Ask yourself the following questions. You may wish to write your answers down in a journal

- 1. Were there particular moments in this mentoring session that impressed you or surprised you?**
- 2. Where did you see God during your session?**
- 3. Based on your conversations and experience, do you have any new insights on your mentee? What are these insights?**

If necessary, report any new insights, issues or concerns to church leadership.

# LOOKING AHEAD

Your next mentoring session will take place while on a hike with your mentee. The hike will include guided reading and meditation. Once a date is set for your next meeting, find a public place to take a hike. Ideally this place should be a public, quiet location where both you and your mentee can stop and take in the beauty of God's creation.

# MENTORING BRUNCH

## Questionnaire

### Lesson Sheet 1.1

*Take turns asking each other the following questions.*

*Record your answers on this sheet in the space provided.*

#### Basic Information:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Information:

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Pets: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Things:

Subject in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Restaurant: \_\_\_\_\_

Car: \_\_\_\_\_

Place to visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Stuff

Which service do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Other than worship, what other things do you do at church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite thing about your church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When did you last talk to God? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Next meeting:**

Date:

Time:

Location:

## **“Plan B” meeting:**

Date:

Time:

Location: