

For Mentors

A mentor is not perfect. Only Jesus is perfect.
The mentoring relationship is an invitation to “do life” together.
Many times, wisdom comes from failure. God can use our brokenness.
A mentor is intentional. Make a deliberate effort to transfer wisdom.
A mentor is not there to make the mentee feel good.
A mentor is not there to answer every theological question.
A mentor is to be an encourager.

~ Wisdom from the session “Mentoring Myths” (Oct 2009)

What do you do in a mentoring relationship?

- First you get to know each other as friends and sisters in Christ. Find out about each other (family, job, hobbies, interests, favourite things to do...).
- Help your mentee articulate what she may want out of this mentoring relationship. It will help her (and you) to be clear about the objective and focus. It will also help you to get better insights into her needs. Be free to share your own hopes for this mentoring relationship. The ultimate aim/hope is to help these women connect more closely with Jesus and to fall in love with God even more. It is good to have that ultimate goal in mind. The rest are all means to this end.
- It may help to agree a period of time when you will walk together in this relationship as mentor/mentee. Don't keep it open-ended. 3 months or 6 months is a good start. When things develop, you can always extend it but having a finite time allows you to evaluate how it is going at periodic intervals.
- Commit to meet at regular intervals, whether weekly or fortnightly to begin with.
- Make God's word the focus of your times together. Agree on a study you will do together or a book you will read together that is relevant to both of your lives. This will help both of you to bring God into the centre of this relationship. Be sensitive to how the Holy Spirit may be wanting to speak into her life and situation.
- As your friendship develop, many of these things will flow naturally. Remember, Jesus is her real Mentor – you are Jesus's mouth to speak to her, heart to love her, arms to hug her, legs to reach her and ears to hear her. Always point her back to her real Mentor so she builds her dependency on Him and not on you. We will never be able to meet their deepest needs – only Jesus can. Our job is to direct their gaze and focus to Jesus. Nothing gives a mentor more joy than to hear their mentee talk about how Jesus showed them what to do and how to be as a result of your gentle and persistent direction of her towards her Saviour!
- Pray for your mentee consistently – ask God to show you how He wants to work in her life. He will!

May the Living Water flow between you as you walk with other women!

~ Prepared by Kwen Ip

For Mentees

What qualities should you be watching for in someone you might approach to be a mentor?

- A woman who not only loves the Lord, but is actively seeking to grow herself
- A woman who has faith and confidence that God is alive and wants to lead and bless you
- A woman who keeps confidences and is supportive, as well as straight-forward when needed!

How do you find this person?

- Look at women in your church--observe their involvement and attitudes. Would their personality and yours mesh?
- Ask your women's pastor or leader for a mentor--being specific about what you are looking for.
- Ask women leaders you know if they could suggest someone for you to contact.

Be understanding if some women cannot add one more commitment to their lives at this time--don't take it personally! This process can take time, but persevere in praying for discernment and direction.

~ from Poppy Smith's blogspot (Spiritual Director, Author, Speaker)

What do you do in a mentoring relationship?

- First you get to know each other as friends and sisters in Christ. You find out about each other (family, job, hobbies, interests, favourite things to do...).
- You figure out, with your mentor's help, what you may want out of this mentoring relationship. It is good to articulate this clearly to yourself and your mentor. It will help her (and you) to be clear about the objective and focus. Ask your mentor what are her own hopes for this mentoring relationship. Her ultimate aim/hope is to help you connect more closely with Jesus and to fall in love with God even more.
- You agree a period of time when you will walk together in this relationship as mentor/mentee. Don't keep it open-ended in the beginning. When things develop, you can always extend it but having a finite time allows you to evaluate how it is going at periodic intervals.
- Commit to meet at regular intervals, whether weekly or fortnightly to begin with.
- Make God's word the focus of your times together. Agree on a study you will do together or a book you will read together that is relevant to both of your lives. This will help both of you to bring God into the centre of this relationship. Be sensitive to how the Holy Spirit may be wanting to speak into her life and situation
- As your friendship develop, many of these things will flow naturally. Remember, Jesus is your real Mentor – your mentor is Jesus's representative to help you experience Him more closely. Your mentor will never be able to meet your deepest needs – only Jesus can.
- Pray for your mentor too, as she prays for you. Look for opportunities when you can also be an encourager of her.

~ Prepared by Kwen Ip