

MENTOR ORIENTATION

“We did this...in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow.”

- 2 Thessalonians 3:9

WHAT IS A MENTOR: Someone who has “gone before” and now helps another.

WHAT IS A CONFIRMAND: Someone going through Confirmation ministry, deepening their understanding of who God is and their vocation in the world

WHY MENTOR?

“Indeed, for what purpose do we older folks exist, other than to care for, instruct, and bring up the young? It is utterly impossible for these foolish young people to instruct and protect themselves. This is why God has entrusted them to us who are older and know from experience what is best for them. And God will hold us strictly accountable for them.”

- Martin Luther, 1524

GOAL: *To build another Christian relationship for our confirmands, by:*

- * Giving the student a chance to talk about faith one-on-one;
- * Providing an example of Christian discipleship by sharing the Mentor’s faith;
- * Having another Christian to pray for and who prays for them;
- * To worship together, as an example of how to live the life of Christ.

WHAT ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY?

* *It is important that each person keeps what is shared between them confidential.*

When do you “break” confidentiality?

- Safety of the student or someone else
- Ever in doubt – check in with one of the Pastors or Director of Youth Ministry, Laura Anderson

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A MENTOR:

* A Mentor is different than being a friend

- * A Mentor doesn't eliminate questions, but helps others figure out things on their own.
- * Isn't afraid to say you don't have it all figured out - but then works with the Pastor or others to "figure it out."
- * Is dependable and expects the confirmand to also be dependable.
- * Is willing to share honestly with the confirmand

Tim Elmore, in his book *The Greatest Mentors in the Bible*, describes 7 gifts a mentor gives. These gifts are all things you too can give to your confirmand:

- * **Accountability** - Hold your confirmand to her / his commitment. This may mean asking tough questions about commitments they have made – to parents, to God, to the mentoring program.
- * **Affirmation** - Speak words of encouragement, acceptance, and support. Affirm their strengths and the positive changes they make or ideas they have. Great mentors affirm their confirmands regularly.
- * **Assessment** - Look at current life situations and give them an assessment of what you see, giving them perspective from another viewpoint. You have a wider "vision" of life, and may be able to offer a different way of thinking and looking at the world.
- * **Advice** - Yes, even advice is a gift, when given constructively. Help them think through their reasons. Be careful, of course, not to overdo this. But they may ask for your ideas! Be aware of when to "just" listen and when to give advice.
- * **Admonition** - To admonish someone is to caution them or warn them. Help them avoid the pitfalls you've seen; you want to see them walking the right, healthy path.
- * **Application** - Is there a way you can help them find a place to apply the truths you're talking about together? Finding a way to apply faith makes for a life-changing lesson.
- * **Assets** - Do you know where to find something in the Bible that they can hold onto...even memorize, because it just fits what they're wondering? Share it with them. Or look for it together. You're giving your time and your attention. Those are important assets!

SAFETY ISSUES

Because of the world we live in, to protect you, the student, and the church – **ALL mentors must complete a background check.** (Even relatives). If you were a mentor last year, or have filled out a background check for Cross of Christ in the past, you do not need to fill out another background check. If this is a problem, talk with Pastor Kathy.

We also ask that if you are not a relative, that you do not meet in private places with your student and do not give them rides home.

WHAT DO WE DO?

1. Arrange to meet six times between **February 26 (Ash Wed) and April 12 (Easter)**

- * Mentoring should be the focus during the Season Lent
- * Try to meet on Wednesday Nights (Keep it as your weekly church time)
- * 5:30 p.m. Suppers 6:30 p.m. Worship
- * Church is open at 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

2. If meeting in the church - grab a couple of chairs and find a corner in the church. (*Kitchen, classrooms, Fellowship Hall, sanctuary, narthex*). If meeting somewhere else, make sure you have privacy and yet a public place. (McDonalds, Student's home (parents are home), etc...NOT in a car, NOT in mentor's home)
3. Conversation sheets – Six Sessions
 - * Pick up two sheets per session - one for you and one for your student
 - * **WHITE** hanging folder in the narthex on south wall. **PURPLE** file folders in the front – one for each session.
 - * Church webpage (www.cross-of-christ.org/ministries/youth/confirmation/)
 - * *The first session is a “get to know you” session. If this is your second & third year with your same student, some questions might be the same as last year. These are always good to review.*
4. **If you miss a session** – try not to do more than two sessions at a time. (*If you MUST do two sessions at once to “catch up”, we ask you only do this only **once**.)*)
5. Open with a short prayer (take turns with the confirmand)
6. Go through the highs and lows since the last time you talked. What went well, and what didn't go well. Both mentor and student should share.
7. Discuss the questions on the conversation sheet. Go through each section, writing out answers and sharing.
 - * *Don't be afraid when you get off track.*
 - * *Don't feel the need to get through everything.*
8. End with prayer for one another.
9. We will NOT be collecting these sheets.

If you plan to meet on Sundays or Wednesdays during Lent..

10. We encourage you to Sit and Worship **TOGETHER!** If you are meeting at other times, we encourage you to arrange to worship together a couple of times during this process.

MENTORS & CONFIRMANDS

Have a good conversation;
remember to use some **SALT**

Say something affirming

Ask follow up questions

Listen well

Turn the conversation to the
topic of the day