

BIBLE YEAR 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 PROTÉGÉ:** Someone who is learning from a mentor.
- WHAT IS A PEER MINISTER:** Someone dedicated to helping, whose experience is slightly greater than the other’s.

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**

- It is how Jesus modeled his ministry
- It is effective – the more caring adults our youth have, the more likely they will continue to be faith-filled adults
- It is life-giving and enriching for both mentor and student
- Practicing the Christian life is the best way to make it a daily, life-long endeavor

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

- Giving the student a chance to talk about faith with someone one to 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, so as to encourage sharing and trust.*

When do you “break” confidentiality?

- Safety of the student or someone else
- Ever in doubt – check in with one of the Pastors (Pastor Kathy / Pastor Aly)

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A MENTOR:

- A Mentor is different than being a friend
- A Mentor doesn’t eliminate questions for them, but helps them figure out things on their own.
- Isn’t afraid to say you don’t have it all figured out, but actively strives to “figure it out.”
- Is dependable and expects the student to also be dependable.
- Is willing to share honestly with the student

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 confirmation protégé.

- **Accountability** - Hold your confirmand to their 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 students regularly.
- **Assessment** - Look at their present state and give them an assessment of what you see, giving them perspective from another viewpoint. You have a wider “vision” of what they’re struggling with, and giving it to them is a gift.
- **Advice** - Yes, even advice is a gift. 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 experienced. Show them how to walk on the right, healthy path through your words and actions.
- **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** – Utilize the assets that you have. Use your knowledge, experience, care, hope, and presence, among other things to deepen this experience for the confirmand. If you feel you do not have enough assets in some area, ask for help. You are surrounded by people who care and want this to be a life-giving experience for the student and for you. You’re giving your time and your attention. All those are important assets!

SAFETY ISSUES

Jesus calls the Church to care for and protect the vulnerable. One of the ways we listen to that call is adhering to our Safe Haven Guidelines, which direct how we promote and ensure safety for all. **Our Safe Haven Guidelines specify that all individuals interacting with children will complete a background check. This applies to everyone, even family.**

If you were a mentor last year, or have filled out a background check for Cross of Christ in the past, Pastor Kathy will let you know if you need to fill one out again. If this is a problem, talk with Pastor Kathy. These background checks are due before you begin your sessions.

We also ask that if you are not a relative, that you meet in public locations. If meeting via phone or internet, we encourage that doors to rooms be left open, and screens face a doorway. Do not you’re your student a ride home.

WHAT DO WE DO?

1. Arrange to meet six times between **March 5 (Ash Wed) and April 20 (Easter)**
 - * Mentoring should be the focus during the Season Lent
 - * Try to meet on Wednesday Nights (Keep it as your weekly church time)
 - * 6:00 p.m. Suppers 7:00 p.m. Worship
 - * Church is open at 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
2. Whether you are meeting online or in person, make sure that both the mentor and the student have privacy, but ensure it is also a public place. Doors are open, meeting is not done in secret, parents/guardians know the meeting is happening. If at student's home, parents are home as well. NOT in a car, NOT in a mentor's home.

If meeting in the church - grab a couple of chairs and find a corner in the church. (*Kitchen, class rooms, Fellowship Hall, sanctuary, narthex*).

3. Conversation sheets – Six Sessions
 - * Pick up two sheets per session - one for you and one for your student
 - * In the narthex – Welcome Table
 - * Church webpage (<https://cross-of-christ.org/mentoring/>)

** This year our confirmation lessons have been focused on the Old and New Testament. Our mentor discussions for this year are also focused on the Bible. **We ask that you bring your own Bible to each session and remind your students to bring their Confirmation Bible.***

4. Our sessions are formatted using the FAITH5 model. This model helps build connection, relationship, trust, engagement, connection, and reminders of God's faithfulness and presence. The Faith5 consists of:



SHARE: We invite you to begin with highs and lows. We start with the highs because it is a good practice for us to look for the positive and uplifting things in our lives. In the Faith5 model, we believe that we must “open the person, before we open the book.” This sharing helps encourage openness and connection.

READ: We spend time reading the assigned Scripture for the session. Each session will have a different Scripture reading. We invite you to bring your own Bibles and Confirmation students should bring their Confirmation Bibles. We encourage you to mark or highlight these verses in your Bibles.

TALK: We dive into various topics and connections to what we have read, possibly to our highs and lows, and into our perspectives on Scripture. Some of our sessions involve writing and always will involve conversation prompts.

PRAY: In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says that where two or three gather in my name, I am in the midst of them. It is a helpful and important spiritual practice and growth opportunity for us to pray together. We invite you to use the format provided on your session sheet or use your own prayers. Consider how to connect these prayers to the highs and lows shared, the Bible reading and the things you've discussed.

BLESS: Rarely do we practice or experience receiving a blessing outside of worship. We invite you to bless one another and experience the power of ending your time together with a blessing. You can follow the instructions on your session sheets.

5. **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**.)*
6. We will NOT be collecting these mentoring sheets.
7. **If you plan to meet on Sunday or Wednesday during Lent.** 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