



The Biblical Basis of Mentoring and Coaching

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Aims of this Session



- Give examples of mentoring relationships in the Bible and how they worked
- Explain how Jesus used mentoring with the disciples
- Analyse the role of mentoring in making disciples today
- Reflect theologically on instances of mentoring and coaching

A definition of Mentoring...



‘Mentoring is a dynamic, intentional relationship of trust, in which one person (the mentor) enables another (the mentee) by sharing their God-given experience and resources, to maximise the grace of God in their life, and in the service of God’s Kingdom purposes’

Leighton Ford, Arrow Leadership Programme

Its all about perspective...



- The Bible gives us God's perspective on life
- 'I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.' Psalm 121:1-2
- We need a fresh revelation of the Fatherhood of God

Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 19:19-21)



- As a prophet of God, Elijah was showing Elisha that it was God who was calling him, through the highly symbolic and powerful gesture of throwing his cloak around him
- Elisha was prepared to follow Elijah energetically (he ran!), but there were practical implications of that, which needed his attention, before he could answer the call
- Elijah was active, serving his family and community when Elijah 'found' him.
- The element of self-denial is worthy of note!

Questions



Who is *God* calling you to ‘throw your cloak’ around and what could be the cost of that, for mentor and mentee?

Who has ‘thrown their cloak’ around you in the past and what have been the consequences?



‘We mentor because we believe in the future’

Walter Wright, ‘Mentoring; the art of relational leadership’

Elijah and Elisha show me that...



- People will often look on and not quite understand what is happening, but they will watch for fruit
- It will often fall to the mentor to encourage steps of faith in the mentee and that could mean they take the first step (a broker of opportunities)
- Mentors have the immense privilege of leaving a legacy for their mentees and great care should be taken to discuss and 'walk into' this wherever possible
- Mentees can expect to go further in their faith than their mentors!

And...



- If we keep our eyes on the goal and the destination to which God is ultimately calling us, he will be faithful and vision will be realised
- We can look forward with great expectancy as we walk and talk together
- We must be prepared to be surprised by the vehicles God uses to achieve His purposes
- It is likely that strong relational bonds will grow between mentor and mentee
- The 'fruit that will last' (John 15:16) continues, despite setbacks, and bears testimony to the sowing

Question



What is your spiritual inheritance like,
both in terms of what you have
received and what will you pass on?

Other examples of Mentorships...



- Jethro and Moses
- Moses and Joshua
- Ruth and Naomi
- David and Jonathan
- Eli and Samuel
- Barnabas and Paul
- Paul and Timothy
- Paul and Titus
- Mordecai and Esther

Question



From the examples of mentorships in the Bible, what do you consider to be some of the privileges and responsibilities that accompany the relationship?

A Biblical model for mentoring...



Jesus is the perfect model, method and message for mentoring, through...

- His being (Galatians 5:16-25)
- His words (John 6:68)
- His deeds (Mark 2:12)

Be prepared to be amazed!!

Romans 12:1-2



So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

So...



- Consecrate
- Embrace
- Stand out
- Focus!
- React
- Resist
- Respond
- Rise

Paul and Timothy



- Remain true to *God's word* (1 Timothy 1:3-7)
- Demonstrate humility and honesty (1 Timothy 1:12-14)
- Recognise and talk about *God's mercy* (1 Timothy 1:15-17)
- Remember when *God* has spoken in the past (1 Timothy 1:18-19)
- Encourage worship (1 Timothy 2:1-15)
- Respect godly leadership (1 Timothy 3:1-13;6:1-2)
- Delegate appropriately (1 Timothy 3:14-16)
- Practice discernment (1 Timothy 4:1-8)
- Teach with authority (1 Timothy 4:9-14)



- Be diligent and persevere (1 Timothy:15-16)
- Demonstrate that church is inter-generational and does not show favouritism (1 Timothy 5:1-21)
- Strive for purity (1 Timothy 5:22)
- Show integrity in financial matters (1 Timothy:3-10)
- Flee and fight (1 Timothy 6:11-16)
- Command the wealthy to use what they have to build the kingdom (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
- Guard spiritual gifting and ability very carefully (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Always remember that the grace of God needs to suffuse all that we say and do (1 Timothy 6:21)



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Question



Which aspects of my life are currently worthy of emulation and which are not?

- Talk and pray this through with your mentor!

Bibliography



The Training of the Twelve - A B Bruce

Mentoring to Develop Disciples and
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