

Rise Up! Mentoring Matters

Section One: Why We Mentor

1) History and mission

2) Definition: *To provide faithful, influencing, adult friends for youth in order for them to fulfill their God given purpose.*

What is mentoring? A _____ to _____ relationship where an adult serves as a source of _____, _____, and _____ to youth.

Not all engagement with youth is mentoring.

3) Why individuals? *“It takes five significant relationships with adults who are not family for youth to thrive.”* Chap Clark

You wouldn't be who you are today without mentors.

Who mentored you? _____

Not every mentored child will be successful, but every successful child will have a mentor.

4) Crisis of fatherlessness

- 40% of youth are born to unwed moms (ChildTrends.org)
- 47.6% poverty rate for homes headed by mothers with no spouse (2011)
- 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes; 5x the average (US Dept. of Health census)
- 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes; 20x the average (Center for Disease Control)
- 80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes; 14x the average (Justice and Behavior, Vol. 14 p. 403-426)
- 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes; 9x the average (National Principals Association Report)

5) Biblical call to mentoring

- Father to the fatherless: Psalm 68:5 – A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling.
- Helper: Psalm 10:14 – You, O God, see trouble and grief. You consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to you. You are the helper of the fatherless.
- Compassion: Lamentations 3: 22-23 – The Lord's compassions never fail. They are new every morning.
- Repairing brokenness: Isaiah 58:6-12 (selected) – Loose the chains of injustice, untie the cords of the yoke, set the oppressed free, share your food with the hungry, provide the poor wanderer with shelter, and clothe the naked then your light will break forth like the dawn and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. You will be called the Repairer of Broken Walls.

- Losing our church youth (70% of church youth are not in church by age 25):
Deuteronomy 6:5-7 – Love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Impress these commandments on your children.
- The heart of ministry is the heart of God. God is about relationships and connection: God and Adam; Jesus and the disciples

Section Two: Understanding Your Match

1) What is your worldview? Worldview – The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world. Simply put, it is how we understand the world around us.

Think _____

They will not see the world as you do.

We all have our own _____. Understanding ours will help _____ others.

Mentoring hidden secret: You will learn just as much from them as they will from you. You cannot screw this up if you are _____, _____, and _____.

2) The Journey

A journey requires a _____. The agreed upon destination is that regardless of outcome the child, upon adulthood, will know that you accepted, loved, and attempted to influence them as Jesus does.

You are not a change agent but a merchant of hope.

3) To get to the destination you must:

a. Adjust your _____. The primary reason mentors fail is that they expect or demand _____ in a short time. Parents have 18 years and we have an hour a week yet we expect results in that short time.

b. _____ first, guide second. We need to be their cheerleader first and _____ second. They have multiple voices of _____ but few _____ or _____.

“Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story.” Josh Shipp

c. Be a kid whisperer (listener, empathizer). _____ first: seek to understand, not lecture.

Keys to listening:

- Tune in: pray
- Lend an EAR: **E** - _____ contact
A - _____ to cues/ask open questions
R - _____

Empathy: Identifying with and understanding another person’s situations, feelings, and motives.

“You never really fully understand someone until you crawl inside their skin and walk around in it for a while.” Atticus Finch

Keys to empathizing:

- _____ was the greatest empathizer.
- Always look beyond the _____ and see the person.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way just as we are yet was without sin.

e. Have fun!

- You can be their _____ friend but not their _____! They are not looking for another peer.
- Give new adventures and new opportunities. If a kid ever says, “That’s dumb, I didn’t like it,” it may simply mean they’ve never experienced it.

f. Believe the best.

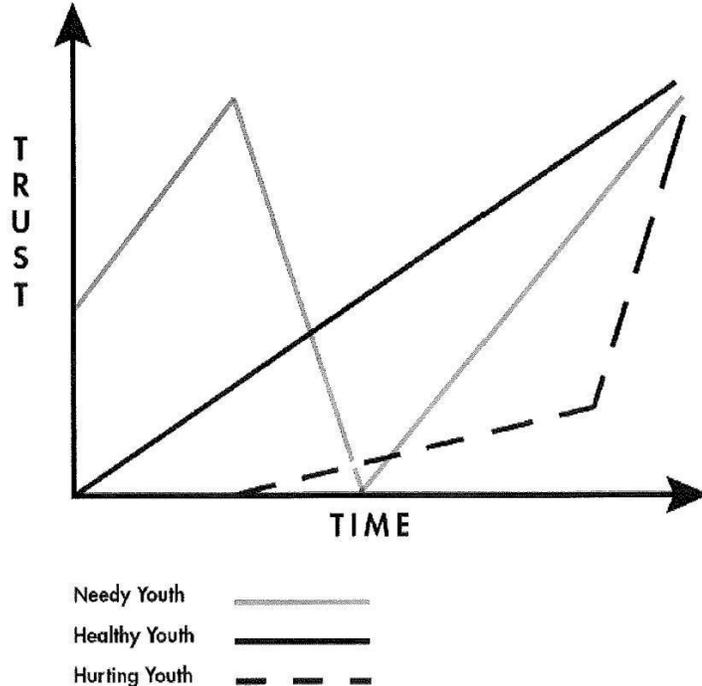
Section Three: Principles and Methods for Being an Effective Mentor

1) Reasons mentors fail:

- Inconsistency – The most consistent thing in their life is an inconsistent adult.
- Judgmental – Conflict with parents’ values
- Change ninjas
- Take on a parental, authoritative role
- Phone worship
- Being inauthentic
- Ignore advice of Rise Up! staff

2) Getting started

- Always be prepared – you can always change the plan
- Get to know your mentee
- Find their interest
- Start simple – activity leads to conversation
- The first few times will be a honeymoon, chaos, or shutdown
- Mentoring is _____ (sooner or later). No _____, no mentoring.



- Your child needs F.A.C.E. time:
 - _____ - most kids assume that adults are boring
 - _____ - acceptance doesn’t mean approving, listen without judging
 - _____ - be there, be real
 - _____ - believe

Section 4: What about God?

Actions speak louder than words. I Thessalonians 2:7, 11-12 We are gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children...encouraging, comforting, and urging you to live lives worthy of God.

Two essential characteristics _____

These are louder than words.

1) The maturity dilemma:

- We _____ what it's like to be a kid.
- Try to "talk" kids into changing.
- We resort to _____ or _____ and everything will be all right stories.

2) Nurturing truth and love:

- Listen rather than lecture.
- Pray rather than worry.
- Forgive rather than ferment.
- Believe rather than badger.

3) Remember:

- God will work.
- When you feel ineffective, God is still effective.
- Leave the results to God.

4) God opens doors:

- Don't force the door open.
- Pray for God to open hearts.
- Be patient.
- Seize God's opportunities by:

Asking questions

Introducing them to other Christians

Bringing them to non-threatening church events; in general, avoid youth groups

Not being a "know it all"; the older I get the less I know

Giving God's response – I Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give reason for the hope that you have. Do this with gentleness and respect.

Section 5: What About's

1) About Parents: relating to my match's parents

- All parents agree to have their child matched.
- They sign a release form allowing their child's participation.
- Some parents become defensive. Therefore, show respect to the parents, inform them of where you will go and when you will return, and do not speak negatively about the child or the parents.
- Some parents are hopeless and lonely. Therefore, be courteous but do not try to be their friend.
- Some parents are overwhelmed. Therefore, be compassionate, but do not be drawn in to their problems. Remember your role: you are a friend to your match.
- _____ parent.
- Do not _____ money This is a ministry rule for volunteers. Simply say, "We can't."
- The keys to parent relationships are: a) respect the parent and child b) focus on the relationship with the child c) notify your ministry staff if there are problems.

2) About physical contact: The Big 5: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

3) About Problems: How do I handle problems?

- Confidentiality – **Never promise absolute confidentiality.**
- Never keep "secrets" that can harm such as someone is being hurt or someone is planning to hurt others.
- Appropriate confidentiality
 - Keeps personal matters private
 - Does not share issues with family, friends, or church
 - Shares problems with the ministry staff alone
 - State law and our policy requires us to report any reasonable cause to suspect abuse
 - If a child discloses abuse go to BAT for them: _____ what is said, _____ your concern for the child, _____ your ministry.
- How do I know if there is abuse or neglect?
 - If you see bruises in unusual patterns
 - If there are injuries with inconsistent or incongruous explanations
 - If there is a severe and consistent lack of food, clothing, or shelter
 - If a child is being consistently or severely threatened, tell your ministry staff immediately!

4) About problems between kids and parents: Remember: Most kids feel negative about their parents from time to time. "Most kids lie and make excuses." Ron Johnson

Do not be drawn in _____ . If they complain simply say, "I'm sorry, tell me more. How can I help you get through this?" Or else they will _____ .

Summary

After one year, it will be better or worse than you expected, but it won't be what you expected. But you will be better. These are generalities and principles...recipes if you will. It's up to you what you make of it. **You never know what will happen if you mentor, but you will know if you don't. Kids never drift upward.**

"Never underestimate the value of any child. Who knows but God? He may have been waiting for centuries to do something that can only be done through that one life." Anonymous

