MENTORS

Bible Study by Major Marion Weymouth

What comes to your mind when thinking of the word 'mentor'.?

'Mentor' is a word from ancient times . In Greek legends, "mentor" was the wise friend of Ulysses and the protector of his family. Mentor acted as the teacher and advisor to Ulysses' son, helping him to develop sound attitudes, values and behaviour, and preparing him to be an upright, wise and courageous adult.

This study will examine:

- definitions of mentoring and its purpose
- our own experiences of mentoring
- Scriptural examples which help us to see styles of mentoring, and qualities for mentors
- learning from the example of the greatest mentor of all time, in the life of Jesus
- reflecting on how to apply this in our own circumstances

ONE

From the above description of 'Mentor', can you remember a particular person who helped develop sound attitudes, values and behaviour in your own life?

Share something of the nature and characteristics of this person [gentle, faithful, tough, persistent, loving etc.]

TWO

The following list is a variety of functions found in mentoring relationships:

discipler, spiritual guide, coach, counsellor, teacher, model.

Describe to members of the group how one or more of these has influenced you, or how you have influenced another – that is, how you have been mentored or become a mentor.

THREE

In each of the following cases from Scripture:

- Who is the mentor?
- What did the mentor do? What role did he/she play?
- What result did this have?

Exodus 18:13-26	2 Kings 2:1-15	1 Samuel 3:1-10
Mark 1:16-20	Matthew 5;1-2	John 1:35-42
Acts 11:19-26	Acts 16:1-6	2 Timothy 1:3-8

I hope that you enjoy the Senior Adult Discipleship material that we have produced. This has been done in response to requests from older adults in our Australia Territory. Seniors from the Territory have written these studies and we are happy to produce this series.

The topics *Seniors - 'Agents of Change', 'Let Eternity Shape Your Future' & 'Going Deeper, Getting Right'*, have been chosen to speak to the adult generations. These Bible Studies are designed to be used individually, but can equally be used in the group or corps setting. Individuals/Groups that like to forge ahead and get a whole study done in one sitting can do that, but you can also work at a slower pace just using one of the sub-heading per day/week.

Jennifer Cloke (Major)

Lyn Daines (Major)

{notes}

FOUR

Now let us look at the best example of all:

READ JOHN 10:11-14

What is the role of a **Shepherd** in mentoring?

From this passage, what is needed to be a Shepherd?

*A Shepherd influences from **above**...*

READ JOHN 13:3-5,14-15

What is the role of a **Servant** in mentoring?

What is needed to be a servant?

*A servant influences from **below**...*

READ JOHN 15:13-15

What is the role of a **Friend** in mentoring?

What is needed to be a friend?

*A Friend influences from **alongside**...*

{notes}

FIVE

Having looked at all these examples and thought of your own experiences, what would you say are the most important qualities or characteristics of a mentor?

SIX

John Mallison * defined Christian mentoring as "a dynamic, intentional relationship of trust in which one person enables another to maximise the grace of God in their life and service."

The mentor has a wonderful privilege, as he/she enables another to 'pay attention for the presence of God in everything'.

In the journey of growth and formation, the mentor shepherds, comes alongside or serves another to help answer some of life's biggest questions

- relationship with God "Who is God?",
- identity as a child of God: "Who am I?"
- and purpose in life:"What am I to do with my life?"

Of course this doesn't always happen in rapid or dramatic ways – it is in the context of ordinary life that growth and change occur. God also places others on our pathway in life to help us to maximise the grace of God, where we can find a place of trust and freedom to share failure, struggle, brokenness, inadequacies – and celebrate joys and growth.

SEVEN

In conclusion, let us determine to be more intentional in the way we may influence – or be influenced by another. Pray for love, understanding and trust to ward others that God may indeed work through His Holy Spirit to make you an "agent of change".

If you are in a group setting read together : Ephesians 4: 15-16 as a Benediction

* Mentoring to develop Disciples and Leaders", by John Mallison, 1998, Scripture Union and Openbook Publishers
* See also: Spiritual mentoring- a Guide for seeking and Giving Direction", by Keith R.Anderson & Randy D. Reese, 2000, eagle IPS, Surrey UK

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