

# Junior Soldiers

## UNIT 14 : LESSON 5



### Christian mentoring

**PURPOSE:** For the children to explore and understand what Christian mentoring is, why it is important and how they could mentor others.

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 (CEV)

### CONSIDER & PREPARE

Read:

1 Corinthians 11:1

1 Timothy 4:12

2 Timothy 3:10

Psalms 145:4

Matthew 28:19a

This lesson will focus on the importance of Christian mentoring.

A Christian mentor is someone who offers example, words and care to help us become more like Jesus.

In the Bible, we read about how Paul mentored Timothy.

He allowed Timothy to witness his example, sharing in ministry together and seeing how he reacted in difficult times.

He gave him advice through words, and he expressed care for Timothy. We see this in Paul's reference to Timothy as "my dear Son" (2 Timothy 2:1) and his commitment to praying for Timothy.

Today, we will think about the people who are mentoring us, and we will look at how the Junior Soldiers could be a Christian mentor to others.

Before the lesson, take some time to follow the instructions in 'Tying In' to create your own spider diagram. You might like to share this as an example for the children to follow.

### **What you will need:**

For 'Connecting In'

- For option 2: Print off three signs, large enough so everyone can read. Sign 1: 'READ THE BIBLE', sign 2: 'HELP ME', sign 3: 'CHURCH'. A bible for each child.

For 'The Main Thing'

- The video 'Every move I make' by CJ and Friends. At the time of publishing the URL is <https://youtu.be/MPvnZILn6EYA>
- Paper people chain – you can purchase one or make your own. Instructions on how to make one can be found by searching 'how to make a paper people chain'. You might need several if you have a large group.
- Markers or pens

For 'Prayer Time'

- Paper people chain

For 'Memory Verse'

- The words of 1 Corinthians 11:1 (including the reference), printed on A4 sheets, one word/number per page.

For 'Tie It In'

- A4 sheet of paper and a pen or marker for each child
- Printed example spider diagram

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off one Home & Beyond card for each child.

## CONNECTING IN

### Option 1: Mentor Says

This is a variation of the game 'Simon Says'.

Explain, "We are going to play a game of 'Mentor Says'. I am going to give you some instructions. If I say, 'Mentor says', follow the instruction. If I don't say 'Mentor says', you should ignore the instruction. Pay close attention, because if you follow an instruction when I didn't say, 'Mentor Says', you will be out and will need to sit down."

- Mentor says, "Open the Bible"
- Do star jumps
- Mentor says, "Kneel down to pray"
- Make a quacking noise
- Mentor says, "Sing a worship song"
- Jump like a kangaroo
- Jog on the spot
- Clap your hands together
- Mentor says, "Smile"
- Put your hands in the air
- Sit down
- Mentor says, "Have a rest"

### Option 2: Mentor's Calling

This game is a variation of the game 'Captain's Calling'.

Explain, "In this game, I am going to give you one of five instructions and you need to follow them as quickly as possible. The last person to follow the instruction will be out. First, let's practice the five possible instructions together."

- READ THE BIBLE: If I say, 'Read the Bible', run to the pile of Bibles over here and open one up.
- GO TO CHURCH: When I say, 'Go to Church', run over to the sign that says, 'Church'.
- HELP SOMEONE: If I say, 'Help someone', run to the 'help me' sign.
- PRAY: If I say, 'Pray', drop to your knees and put your hands together, wherever you are.
- FOLLOW ME: If I say, 'Follow me', come and walk in a single file behind me.

Before beginning, do several practice rounds, until everyone seems to understand what is required.

Call out the commands in a random order and let children know when they are eliminated.

### Link...

It is so helpful to have people in our lives who teach us and show us how to live for Jesus. Sometimes these people are called 'mentors'. Mentors don't just tell us how to live for Jesus. They give us an example to follow, and they encourage and pray for us.

In today's lesson we are going to talk about this. A Christian mentor is someone who uses example, words and care to help us become more like Jesus.

## THE MAIN THING

I wonder if you can think of someone who has helped you grow as a Christian. It might be a grandparent, a church leader, a teacher or a Big Bud. If you can, try to think of someone other than your parent or guardian.

When you have thought of someone, write their name on a paper person.

Ask your choice of the following questions:

- What did that person do to encourage you?
- How did they teach you?
- How did they help you get closer to Jesus?
- How did they care for you during hard times?
- What do you remember most about their behaviour or attitudes?

These people have been mentors to us, helping us grow closer to Jesus. In the Bible, there is a great example of mentoring.

A man named Paul was a mentor to a younger man named Timothy. Paul was travelling around, sharing the good news about Jesus and seeing lots of people choosing to follow him. He helped Timothy do the same! To find out more about how Paul mentored Timothy, we are going to look up some verses.

Ask volunteers to look up the following verses and have them ready:

1 Corinthians 11:1

2 Timothy 3:10

2 Timothy 2:22-24

2 Timothy 1: 2-5

1 Timothy 4:12

**Read 1 Corinthians 11:1 out loud.**

God wants all of us to follow Jesus' example, but he also gives us people in our lives who we can follow. Let's look for people who are trying to follow the example of Jesus.

**Read 2 Timothy 3:10 out loud.**

Paul says that Timothy has seen Paul's example up close. He has seen how Paul acts in good times and bad. When we are learning, it is important to have an example to look to.

## Optional activity

Imagine if I tried to teach you a dance by using words alone.

I might say something like this:

(Give all the following instructions without pausing).

“You’re going to stamp your left foot down, quickly followed by your right foot, then clap and repeat four times. Then you’ll step to your left with your left foot, followed by your right foot. When your right foot comes across, clasp your hands together in front of your chest...”

Who thinks they can now do the dance? Do you think it would be easier if you saw an example?

Now I’m going to show you a video clip of these actions. Let’s try to follow along!

Play the video ‘Every move I make’ by CJ and Friends.

**Read 2 Timothy 2:22-24 out loud.**

Paul’s letters to Timothy are filled with instructions like these ones. Mentors should set an example, but they should also use words, answering questions and sometimes giving advice.

Imagine if you went to swimming lessons and the teacher never used any words. No explanations, no instructions, no feedback. Just a demonstration. Do you think it would be easy to learn? No! Mentors give us instructions AND example.

**Read 2 Timothy 1:2-4 out loud.**

This verse helps us to understand how much Paul cared for Timothy. He refers to him as “my dear son”, says that he constantly remembers Timothy in his prayers and looks forward to seeing him again.

As mentors, it is important that we care for the person we are mentoring. We shouldn’t mentor someone just to make ourselves feel important. We do it because we care about them.

**Read 1 Timothy 4:12 out loud.**

In this verse, Paul encourages Timothy. Even though Timothy is young he can be an example to others. He can be a mentor. All of us can be.

## TYING IN

Give each participant a blank sheet of A4 paper.

No matter how young we are, with God's help, we can help others grow closer to Jesus.

We are each going to make a spider diagram that looks something like this (hold up example).

This will help us explore the areas of influence that we already have.

In the centre of your page, write your name and draw a circle around it.

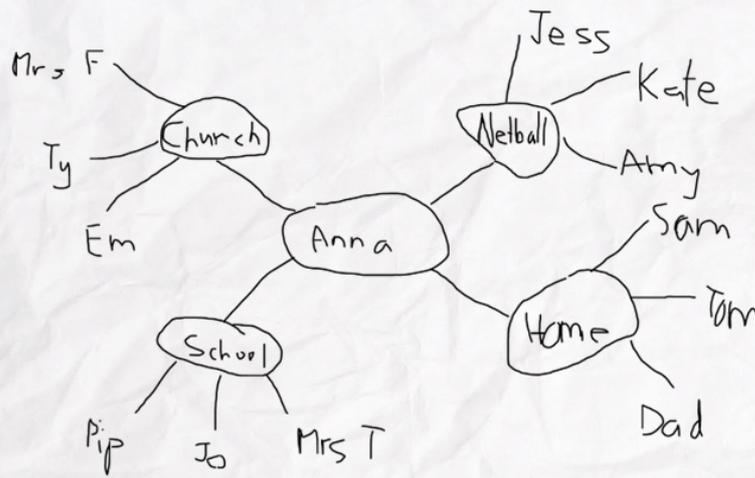
Next, think of the different places or groups where you know people by name. You might include things like 'home', 'school', 'church' and 'netball'. Put each of these in a circle around the edge of your name and draw a line connecting them.

Next, think about three people you have a relationship with in each of those places. Draw a line from the place to the names.

Allow some time for everyone to finish their diagrams.

Have a look at your diagram. These are some people who you are already spending time with. You could share Jesus with them, through words and actions. Maybe you already are.

- Does anything stand out to you when you look at your diagram?
- Can you think of some new ways that you could share Jesus with these people by example, words and care?



## MEMORY VERSE

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1 (CEV)

Print the memory verse on sheets of paper, broken down as follows:

1. Follow
2. My
3. Example
4. As I
5. Follow
6. The example
7. Of Christ
8. 1
9. Corinthians
10. 11
11. 1

Place them in order on the floor and invite the children to take turns stepping across the papers and saying the verse out loud as they go.

Once everyone has had a turn, say the verse again all together.

## **PRAYER TIME**

Put out the paper people chain again. Spend time as a group praying for their mentors – past and present – by name. Thank God for them. Pray that they will know God’s love, peace and presence in their lives today.

Ask the children to sit or stand in a circle. Encourage each child to pray for the person on their right. Pray that Jesus will show them who they could mentor.

## **HOME & BEYOND**

Print off the ‘Home & Beyond’ cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.



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## Home & Beyond

- Thank someone who has helped you grow closer to Jesus. You could make them a card or thank them by phone.
- Memorise 1 Corinthians 11:1.



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