

# Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders

## a beginning guide to biblical discipleship

**Matthew 28:18 - 20** “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.”

Christ is in you- the hope of glory! Do you believe that what you have is precious enough to protect and needed enough to pass on? The circle of life, spiritual health and growth is dependent on discipleship. It brings a new level of maturity, accountability, and godly fear into our lives to take the responsibility from Jesus and carry it on to others; moving from inward to outward focus- producing a body that doesn't have time to bicker and backbite because it is intentionally building itself up into maturity in Christ (Eph. 4: 11-13)

### Core Foundations

Jesus said to make disciples of all nations: **Matthew 28:18-20**

New Testament Christianity affirms our collective role in this: **Romans 1: 5-6 (AMP)** “It is through Him that we have received grace (God's unmerited favor) and [our] apostleship to promote obedience to the faith and make disciples for His name's sake among all the nations, And this includes you, called of Jesus Christ and invited [as you are] to belong to Him.”

The New Testament is the handbook for discipleship: **2 Timothy 2:2, 3: 16-17**

The Holy Spirit is the center of discipleship: **John 14: 26, Luke 12: 12, 1 Cor. 2:13**

Jesus taught them- showed them- released them- then they did the same with others.

### Framework

#### **Minister to them:**

Speak into their life from the Lord. Share something the Lord has shown you lately.

- Verses you're memorizing or that have impacted you.
- Testimonies from your life.

Remember growth provokes growth in greatness and transparency provokes transparency

#### **Remember former topics:**

Make notes after you meet with someone about specific prayer requests, struggles and victories.

- Often they will not link simple things like - recent decisions to go after God and multiple attacks on their life. You pointing these things out will encourage them.
- Even better, bring some scriptures to encourage them in that area.

**Begin with Questions about their day/week:** Listen to them.

- Draw out or point out the hand of God in their life working through those things.

**Ask about their relationship with Jesus ALWAYS.**

- Gauge where they are at- introduce them to “secret place” living if need be.
  - Secret place: Devotional time with the Lord (Psalm 91)
- As often as possible- **DO IT WITH THEM.**
- Don't ask, "are you spending time with God"?, instead ask, "what is it God has been showing you lately?", or, "what has God been dealing with in your life?", or, "what have you been reading in God's word lately?".
  - The first type of question is yes or no test that promotes religious stigma (all i have to do is pass the test of yes/no questions and i am still a spiritual Christian).
  - The second type of questions causes the mentored to look past ritual and seek/hear the voice of God for themselves.
  - They will grow to expect these questions from you and over time have clearer answers. Don't give up on being specific. This creates the difference between accountability and just "going through the motions".

### Draw Wisdom

**Proverbs 20: 5 “Counsel in the heart of man is like water in a deep well, but a man of understanding draws it out.”**

One of your primary privileges as a mentor is to encourage and correct (all scripture is profitable). The first one is more fun, but they are both equally beneficial to the growing believer.

**Proverbs 20: 30 “Blows that wound cleanse away evil, and strokes [for correction] reach to the innermost parts.”**

- You're not here to make a buddy by petting their flesh, you here to make disciples that love and follow Christ into the depths of His power and sufferings.

Drawing wisdom from the man or woman of God has **MORE** to do with questions and **LESS** with answers. As you ask questions, point out the basic qualities of faith in their life- as you do so, you will attract the gifts of the spirit (simply because you are operating in encouragement/knowledge at a basic level) - soon enough you will begin to see and connect deeper things in their heart.

- Don't be anxious to give answers, and don't only ask questions you have answers to. For example: "So you haven't been spending much time with the Lord, why do you think that is?...do you feel that spending time with Him is valuable enough in your life to make strategic decisions in your day to spend with Him?...What are some ways you can go about that starting this week?".
- Good answers come in truth that binds commonality in kingdom culture. You could easily tell a person they need to spend time with the Lord, it is worth it to them, and then tell them how to do it. But instead you draw counsel by sharing with them an experience that allows them to draw their own conclusion for example “The reason I (or believers) see it essential to spend time with the Lord daily is...
- Avoid becoming the counselor: you have a bible and the Holy Spirit in you. The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth, not all previous experiences. Utilize the concordance in your bible or the internet with resource websites (many are available on our website). Take them to the word as the standard for their life. You

can not and will not ever effectively make a disciple of Christ if they do not value His word as the authority for all decisions and wisdom in their life.

- It's ok to say, "I don't know the answer to that question, lets find out together".
- We would rather teach a man to fish and he will eat forever, than catch a fish for him that he eats for a day.

### The Challenge of the Lord...not the mentor

This connects heavily with the first step “remember former topics”.

- When a mentored student shares something the Lord has given them (a conviction, a vision, an instruction) this is the greatest place of accountability we can hold them to next to His word (obviously, you have already made sure that whatever it is the Lord showed them it is in alignment with the scripture).
- Now you have a place to lovingly challenge them in and focus on everything that has to do with what God is saying to them.
- Herein is found the greatest place of safety calling people into their destiny. We never “manipulate” them to become like us or do what we think is best.
- Cultic behavior typically begins at a Truth and slowly moves into personal opinions, experiences, and interpretations being mixed and distorting the purpose of the original Truth. Within this process people typically learn to value the words of a man over the words of God, even though they are contrary. This is why we must continually bring things to the scriptures and test spirits by which ideas and “revelations” are coming.

### Plan of Action (objectives of mentorship- spiritual health and growth)

Lamentations 1: 9 “She did not consider her destiny; Therefore her collapse was awesome”

Ephesians 5:16-17 “Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is.”

- Better to err on the side of radical abandonment then give room for a foothold in your counsel
  - I.E. “is it ok to drink?” The bible doesn’t say it is not- but the real question becomes why not prefer things that can help others not stumble? Why do I need to drink? If it could be a stumbling block then is it really worth it to me to hurt someone’s faith? Is this about me? -all things are lawful but not all are profitable -give no room for a foothold. I have found that my flesh inclines me to come as close to sin and potential bondage as possible while the Spirit beckons me to come as close to Jesus as possible. So what is the desire of my heart? Is the Lord my greatest desire?
  - I.E. “I’m just a cusser” “**Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.**” Ephesians 4:29

- Call them into a focused life that cannot afford to be tampered with:
  - Nehemiah 6: 3 “So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”

Your experience is a good tool for mentorship *as long as you have scripturally based experience*. Make sure you allow the truth to guide them. A couple of good tips for helping in counseling others:

- Use resources (books, cds, bible studies, tools for mentoring, spiritual leadership, x3watch, testimonies, encouragements, meet them for prayer, memorize scripture, DO IT WITH THEM)
- Have them spend the next week praying, fasting, and studying the word on the area of interest. You will promote dependency on the Lord in their life and cause them to learn valuable attributes of the faith.
- Remind them that victory over sin and temptation is the only pattern of normal Christianity:

“as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness” 2 Peter 1: 3

### Grow or Go (...and make disciples!)

“Pastor the unfaithful, disciple the faithful.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - faithful people deserve your time.

- You can not and will not ever effectively make a disciple of Christ if they do not value His word as the authority for all decisions and wisdom in their life.
- Mentorship and accountability are only effective if the mentored values it equally. If you provide sound wisdom and there is consistently no change you must make a decision-will you continue to invest your time into this person?

“Prayerphecy”

- Pray and Prophecy over their life
- Pray over their life and have them pray for you often.

Appreciate Diversity. This is one of Chi Alpha’s core values. Not just ethnic diversity, but everything from clothing preferences, to hairstyles. Don’t let a tattoo or nose ring stand in the way of new friendship. Everyone has a place – athletes, engineering students, internationals, artists, etc, all must be valued.

Respect the spiritual journey of every person in the room. Students without a faith experience may not understand your Christian vocabulary, or may not understand your worship style. Others may have experienced a relationship with Christ but are at the front end of their Christian walk. Create an atmosphere/environment where it is safe to ask questions and practice gifts.

- Trust the Holy Spirit to lead people into the lifestyle changes they need to make.

- You are enrolled in the school of the Holy Spirit, not an up and coming psychologist or counselor!
- Understand the difference between three things: absolutes, cultural differences, and preferences.
- Pray that there will be an authentic move of God in students in every campus ministry setting you have – always put unity and blessing first.

### Topics

- Time with the Lord- it will all come back to this (prayer life, community, witness)
- Time (before God, invested in other things purposefully)
- Finances (tithe, offering, stewardship)
- Relationships (“birds of a feather, flock together”)
- Family (if a person chooses to disobey parents is this wise in any situation?)
- Education (time, direction)
- Vision/direction
- Purity (thought/action) be specific

Most things come back to meditation of the mind and practice of the life (time, resource) and all these will require plan of action.