



Life2Life Mentors

Benefits

Barriers

Principles

Practices

Who is a mentor?

Someone who has gone where we want to go, sharing wisdom to help us get there.

7 Benefits of having a mentor

- Develop and sharpen skill sets
- Gain big picture perspective from their longer exposure
- Access wisdom and advice for life situations
- Encouragement in tough times
- Expand your connections and networks
- An advocate, ally, intercessor for you
- Experience more successes and fewer failures.

Barriers to getting and keeping mentors

1. Lack of knowing how to ask
2. Lack of knowing where to look
3. Not taking initiative
4. Flaking out- not faithful in keeping commitments
5. Not following through on mentor guidance
6. Lack of opportunity: small mentor pool in your context
7. Misaligned priorities- don't make it a priority
8. Lack of a teachable spirit
9. Insecurity- afraid of rejection
10. Blind to the benefits

Principles of Mentoring Relationships

1. Know what you want from a mentoring relationship.
2. It takes intentionality, it takes work.
3. Mentors prefer those who are available, teachable, hungry to grow, and who follow through.
4. Understand the culture of the other person and move toward them, rather than expecting them to move toward you.

5. Reaping-sowing principle.
6. Mentors who can provide multi-faceted (synergistic) mentoring can be very beneficial (faith, work, leadership, life skills). (See Venn diagram)
7. Different mentors for different seasons of life and different needs.
8. Because a mentor is in your inner circle doesn't mean that you're in theirs. It's ok.
9. Mentors should be part of everyone's "life board." (See diagram with people around table.)
10. A portfolio approach to mentor counsel is helpful.
11. Mentors aren't infallible. Loyalty should be to God alone.



Finding a Mentor

1. Pray
2. Personal inventory. Know yourself, know what you want and need.
3. Network
4. Establish trust early and maintain it
5. Take risks: extend an invitation
6. Follow-up!

Finding a Mentor: Networking

Local Church
 Alumni Associations
 Trade/Industry Associations
 Conferences, Activities, Events
 Referrals
 Marketplace Ministries



WORKSHOP EXERCISE

Initiating a meeting

1. Write down for what you want mentoring.

[Outside the classroom, take time to pray and listen to God. Ask, "God, what areas do I need a mentor for?"]

2. Write down current networks where you might find prospective mentors in the areas you desire to grow.

[You've met someone that you think might make a good mentor. Now it's time to initiate a connection.]

Role play with a partner. One person is prospective mentor, the other the eager-to-learn protégé.

"Mr. X, I'm really curious about what you said about _____. Would you be open to me picking your brain sometime to learn a bit more?"

[Affirmative response]

[Looking at your calendar] "Great! What date would work for you? Where would be most convenient for you?" ...[schedule it in]... Thanks so much! I look forward to connecting!

Initiating a follow-up meeting with a prospective mentor.

[You're wrapping up a great meeting with the prospective mentor. You've taken notes, practiced good listening skills, asked thoughtful questions, asked about their career journey and perhaps spiritual journey, and have been genuinely interested. You would like to continue exploring if this person would be a good mentor. You're ready to take the next step.]

Initiating a follow-up meeting with a prospective mentor.

"Mr. X, Thanks so much for meeting with me! I've really enjoyed what you said about _____. I'd like to take some time to think on these things. Would you be open to connecting again sometime for some follow-up?"

[Affirmative response]

"Great! Would a couple months out work?...[if affirmative, schedule it in]... Thanks so much! I look forward to connecting!"

[You've gotten the second meeting scheduled. Now...

Mail...yes, mail... a Thank You note expressing your appreciation for them meeting with you, how you benefited, and your anticipation for the next connection.]

Initiating request to be mentored.

After you've met a 3-4 times, it could be time to invite the prospective mentor to be your mentor.

[You've been faithful to your commitments, made availability a priority, had a teachable attitude, followed through on advice they gave, and have honored any boundaries they've set. You feel like you have a lot more to learn from them.]

"Mr. X, I feel like I've learned a lot from you and there's so much more I could learn! Would you be interested and available to meet like this for the next 6 month and mentor me in this area?"

[Affirmative response]

"Great! How frequently would you be available to meet? [they give frequency]

Should we go again and put a tentative recurring meeting time in place for that period of time? [Follow their lead]" End the time again thanking them for their time.

Reflect & Journal

Ask God, What areas would you Like for me to get mentoring in? Who is someone that I could ask?

Are there any barriers you are experiencing that need to be overcome? What needs to happen to overcome them?

What's your next step?

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Schedule a zoom conversation with John: https://calendly.com/john-baton_exchange/60min