

Long Beach Alliance Church
Mentoring Equipping Event
Cherie Enayat - Sept. 21, 2014

A Christian woman who shows another sister in Christ how to perform a specific task or role, by using biblical knowledge and wisdom, in addition to referencing her own life experience - Karin Graves, WING ministries

"Mentoring is helping another person discover God's plan for his/her life and maximize their own unique impact for the kingdom." - Bob Logan (author)

"Mentoring is: Sharing Life's Experiences and God's Faithfulness" - Janet Thompson (Women to Women Mentoring, author)

What might a mentor look like? A believer, older in years/faith/experience, desiring to invest in another believer, safe, authentic, active listener, patient, pure motives, no agenda, asks thought provoking questions, point mentee toward Christ...

What might a mentee look like? A new/younger believer, seeking to grow in knowledge, faith, maturity, develop deeper relationship with Christ, open, teachable, desiring input, willing to go deep, willing to put effort into their Christian walk....

What might a mentoring relationship look like?

1. **Distinct roles** – Mentor is invited by mentee to hold a unique position of influence in their life, different from their other relationships (mom, aunt, peer, friend etc.). Mentee has willingly placed herself in an active listener/receiver role, giving respect and consideration to a mentor's input and example.
The relationship is NOT co-dependent (dependence on one another), "Dear Abby" (reliance on culture), Dictatorship (Do as I say), Counseling session (fix it), Mothering (making decisions for), judgmental (critical/fault finding), Agenda driven (self-centered).
2. **Meet regularly and consistently** for mutually agreed upon amount of time (30-90 minutes?) frequency (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly) and location; a home, coffee shop, restaurant, park, beach, for walks, scenic drive... anywhere they can freely and intimately converse with few interruption/distractions.
3. **Respect boundaries** – Establish boundaries regarding communication method (phone, e-mail, text @ home/work?) frequency of communication (on call 24/7?)
4. **Mentors listen, ask questions, share experience and tell stories** (The Mentor Conference)
5. **Extend grace & forgiveness** – They don't expect perfection (say/do all right things/all the time), they expect authenticity and the best the other can give/do at that time. They extend mercy, grace, and forgiveness continually.
6. **Uphold confidentiality & integrity** – They don't share what is shared with anyone. They don't allow gossip to sneak, crawl, slither or seep into conversations. Keep it pure, intentional and God-honoring.
7. **Establish *goals** that focus on the individual's needs, personal growth and development. (* pray, prioritize, share, select...journal/record) They re-evaluate and modify goals as necessary.

8. **Formulate plan** toward accomplishing goals which might include; Bible/topical study, Christian book study, prayer journaling, scripture memory, practice of disciplines (fasting, meditation), serving in a ministry together, volunteering for a service project, attending a class at church, starting/maintaining an exercise/nutrition program, etc.
9. **Stay accountable to each other** - They ask/share set-backs, progress and success. They don't give passes, excuses or wallow in victim mentality, but seek healing, restoration, and victory in Christ. They realize and submit to the belief that no matter our age or stage of life, we all need accountability.
10. **Share responsibility in the relationship** – Both initiate plans, creativity, enthusiasm
11. **They read God's Word** – Bring their Bibles!
12. **They pray** together and pray for each other regularly
13. **The enjoy** each other and the process!

What might keeps us from mentoring? (Shannon Reece, The Mentor Conference) FEAR of...

1. **being irrelevant** - from irrelevancy to inspiration (multigenerational relationship)
2. **being truly known** (afraid to be transparent) – God uses the sin/brokenness/pain of our past to minister to others. He promises to turn "...beauty from ashes..." (Isaiah 61:3).
3. **commitment** (time/energy/preparation) – We pray, show up with pure hearts of humility/service and God does the work! He multiplies our efforts 100 fold!

How might we seek/find one? Initiate the process – Pray for/ask, listen, observe, engage...

1. **"Natural/Organic" version** – (identify who) who do you admire/hope to be more like? Begin a relationship; gravitate toward, talk with, attend a women's event or Bible study, go for coffee...don't even need to use the word "mentor" initially. After some time has passed... invite them into a mentor relationship. Be prepared for "no," "Maybe/not now," or "Yes"
2. **"Matching" version** – LBAC Women's Mentoring ministry (Sherylynne will give details)