

MADEMonday

Mentoring, An Introduction

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Congratulations on joining this mentoring program. You are making a good choice and an investment in your future. Mentoring is a special relationship that helps you become a better version of you! This is the beginning of a great journey for you and your mentor. The person mentoring you may seem like a regular person but don't be fooled, that person is incredible. Your mentor has traveled the same road you are traveling now. He is not a guru, simply a guide on this journey. Ultimately, you set the direction and destination.

In case you are still wondering why you need a mentor, consider these issues.

- *Youth are very disconnected from adults – this means you only have peers (who know as much or less than you do) to give you advice about HUGE life issues*
- *You need help – You are not all-knowing or all-powerful, you need help with things*
- *You need other adults in your life - As much as you might not want to admit it, you need other caring adults in your life for a variety of issues*
- *You need a different perspective - As a teen with a limited perspective you need help seeing life from a different perspective, a mentor can help you see it.*

While you need those things, there are some things you don't need:

- *Another sermon, book , or Bible study – Don't get us wrong, we love all of those things, but a mentoring relationship cannot be replaced by those things*
- *Another set of parents or a parole officer – This isn't an attempt to replace your family or police your morality, but simply another positive voice to guide you*
- *More awesome advice from your peers – You may have some really smart friends, but let's face it, they are in the same situation you are*

Your mentor is a wiser person who partners with the greater community of influencers, including parents, teachers, etc..., provide an environment for positive youth development.

All that means is a mentor is not your parent, but rather:

- *A wiser set of eyes for your life*
- *A person you can talk to about problems*
- *A person you can get good advice from*
- *A person you can discuss fears with*
- *A person who cares for you*

What can you expect from your mentoring relationship?

- *You will get wiser – pretty cool, right?*
- *You will grow close to another adult*
- *Become an improved version of you*
- *Gain new perspective on life*
- *Grasp new insights on making wise choices*
- *Grow closer to God*