

# BIBLICAL MENTORING

## Step 1: The Heart of a Mentor

*Session 2:  
What is discipleship?*



**Welcome!** In this session we'll explore how an intentional mentoring relationship can change your life and the life of someone you walk beside. Begin by sharing any insights you received from the last session's questions on receiving God's love and expressing His love to others.

## What is a disciple?

Jesus intends for us to become like Him. Imagine what it would be like to live like Jesus in thought, emotion, word and deed. Imagine what it would be like if all the promises God gave us in Christ were as real to us as the chairs upon which we sit. What would happen if God's kingdom held more influence over us than the world's kingdoms? Meeting another person where they are and helping them become like Jesus is the goal of mentoring and the intent behind discipleship...but it's a goal that can seem out of reach. Scripture tells us that we are to be trained to live like our teacher:

*"The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher." (Luke 6:40 NIV)*

## Discussion:

Read the following scriptures and list adjectives that describe the attitudes, priorities, character, etc. that are found in Jesus and His fully trained disciples.

*John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John 8:12 - When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

*John 16:33 - I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

*1 Peter 2:22 - He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”*

*Philippians 2:1-4 - Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

*Ephesians 5:1-2 - Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

- What other qualities come to mind in describing Jesus and how He lived? What was Jesus worried about? Of what was He afraid? What was the source of His confidence?

## A Life-Long Journey

We are commanded to imitate Jesus, so how do we align ourselves with His plan and how does this alignment practically play out in our daily lives?

Walking the path toward Jesus is like traveling to the moon. Traveling to the moon is all about overcoming one gravitational pull in order to more fully surrender to another. NASA engineers offer a helpful illustration: as a spaceship leaves the earth and speeds toward the moon it has to pass through the equigravisphere, that point where the moon's gravitational tug begins to exercise greater influence than the earth's. The closer one is to the earth, the stronger the earth's pull. The closer one is to the moon, the stronger the moon's pull. That transition point—the equigravisphere—is a midpoint, fence-sitting sort of place where we try to serve two masters. Jesus says this arrangement never works out well (Matthew 6:24).

As we engage in certain activities (like Bible study, prayer, fellowship, etc.) we become aware of a growing distance between us and the things of this earth. At the same time we experience a new force that begins to take hold on our lives.

### Discussion:

- On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being fully influenced by the world alone, 10 being fully influenced by God's kingdom alone, and 5 representing the equigravisphere, where would you put your current location?

- Read Mark 8:22-26. What is unique about this healing?
  
- Read Mark 8:27-33. This passage shows that even Peter, who lived with Jesus and walked with Him daily, did not fully understand Christ's mission. Peter required many "touches" from Jesus before gaining clarity about who He was and why He had come to earth.

At different points in the journey we need to intentionally fight against earth's gravity as we actively look for signs of that new kingdom and its reality. **Becoming more aware of this new kingdom involves training one another to see with eyes of faith that which has always been present but never before perceived.** Like the blind man in Mark 8:22-26, we need Jesus to touch us more than once to clarify what it is we are seeing. Those touches often come through the relationships we have with the biblical mentors God sends our way. Jesus' example shows us how this works.

Jesus trained His disciples in small, practical and everyday ways to both see and live in God's kingdom. "Consider the lilies of the field." "Are you not of more value than many sparrows?" "A farmer went out to sow his seed." "How much more will the heavenly Father give..." Like Jesus, we can use those practical, everyday things to help our disciples see and surrender to the new kingdom in which they live. One step at a time, our actions and words help every part of their lives become touched and impacted with Jesus' teaching as we progressively learn how to live in His kingdom.

This may sound overwhelming, but when taken as individual steps it is as simple as helping someone recognize God's presence in suffering, His blessing in celebration or His grace in a stunning sunrise.

So mentoring happens periodically as we travel one step at a time through the daily events and conversations of life. We also mentor disciples purposefully over time as we intentionally choose a lesson, book or topic that helps us more clearly see the evidence of God's presence in the world today. Through intentional periodic and prolonged mentoring we help our disciples learn to feel the gravitational pull of the kingdom and allow that influence to have greater control over their lives.

## Discussion:

- Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to a growing seed, a mustard seed and yeast in a lump of dough - though present it is small and hardly noticeable to those not looking for it. What are some ways we can train another person to “see with eyes of faith that which has always been present but never before perceived.”

## The Great Commission

We are called to love others as we have been loved by Christ, and we are given the perfect example of an effective mentor in the life of Jesus Himself, but we won't ever BE Jesus. We know we'll fail in our own Christian walk and we won't love or lead others perfectly. So what gives us the right, as well as the responsibility, to enter into someone else's spiritual journey? For that we turn to some of Jesus' most famous last words.

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20).*

Matthew records these as Jesus' last words to His disciples (which includes us). Clearly, Matthew thought these were important words and they have one focus: discipleship.

Jesus declares that He has been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Authority is the right to impose one's will on another. It's what gives a police officer the right to pull you over or your employer the ability to determine your salary. In our culture these expressions of earthly authority have boundaries, and these same boundaries are true for every person in authority...except Jesus.

Jesus does not have an issue with boundaries. He said that He has been given all authority in heaven and earth. No one is over Him; all are under Him. He is bound by nothing except His own character of Holy-Love. It is because He has received all authority that He commissions us (gives us the authority) to make disciples.

## Discussion

- If Jesus sent you to do a job, what level of authority do you carry to accomplish the task and how does knowledge of that authority change the way you approach that task?

In its fullest definition discipleship involves evangelism (making a disciple) and training (equipping a disciple through a mentoring relationship with another, 2 Timothy 2:2). Since it takes a disciple to make a disciple, this session's focus is on the training side of the Great Commission.

The One with all authority came to share the Good News with anyone He came in contact with. In the same way, He now gives us the authority to engage the people who are already in our relational network with the good news of the gospel. Following His example, we are sent to meet other Christians where they are and help them take their next step of integrating their faith in their lives.



As it is with a journey to the moon, with each step of faith we enter more fully into God's kingdom influence. These "steps" happen most often when we gather with one other person to regularly engage in Scripture, share life's joys and concerns, pray with one another and then encourage each other to live out our faith in the world. In short, we work to fulfill Christ's Great Commission when we act as biblical mentors, helping others continue growing in the certainty that the King has come and established His kingdom, that we are citizens of that kingdom, and that the One with all authority is always with us, no matter what. This certainty should touch every part of our lives and so change the way we view and live life.

Think about the thing that worries you most right now or the "sin that so easily entangles you" (Hebrews 12:1). What would happen to this concern or habit if you understood and experienced your life to be in perfect union with Jesus? What would happen to those things if, in the deepest places of your being, you knew that nothing could separate you from God's love and that you had everything you need for life? Like the water of baptism that leaves no part of us dry, this kind of baptism touches and changes every part of our being.

### **Discussion:**

- What hinders your ability to feel the increasing influence of God's kingdom in your life?

The only requirement for me to mentor others is that I, myself, am on the path traveling toward Christlikeness and seeking to surrender more fully to His kingdom's influence. At the very least, if I am at the same place as another traveler I can encourage them, and if I am even one-half step ahead I can guide them.

Think of it. Whether it is a periodic encounter or a more prolonged sharing of life and information, you can join with God in His transforming work! You can become part of His plan to mold you and those around you more

clearly into His image. The life-change God wants to bring into our lives is not something that happens in a vacuum. Mentoring disciples happens in community and it begins when one person is intentional to meet another where they are and help them take their next step of integrating their faith in their lives.

We are called to love others through our actions and act with Jesus' authority as we help each other live in the present kingdom of God. In the same way that we strive to practice the presence of God and His kingdom, so too we can learn to practice the presence of people, something we will consider in our next session.

## Discussion

Read the following passage from Colossians 3:1-4 (NLT)

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.*

- How does this passage shed light on or summarize the topic of this lesson?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How would you answer this session's question: what is discipleship?

**Please take time this week to engage with the following scripture passages and Points to Ponder.**

## POINTS TO PONDER

This week, spend time in prayer, asking God to show you someone in your current relational network whom He may be inviting you to walk with in the weeks ahead; as an encourager who walks alongside, a mentor who is at least one-half step ahead, or a disciple who is being guided along the path.

Scripture Readings this week:

1. Take 15 minutes and prayerfully interact with the following scripture texts:
  - Isaiah 61:1-3 and Luke 4:14-21. What do these passages say about Jesus' mission...and yours? Are there specific areas where you feel you may have fallen short or slipped off the path?
  - Luke 5:1-11 and John 21:1-19. What parallels do you see between these two stories of Peter's commissioning and recommissioning? What hope does this offer for your own life and call to be Jesus' disciple?
2. If you have the chance, go to YouTube and watch "God's Chisel, The Skit Guys" (11 minutes).



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