



Trans Pacific



Prepared by the Discipleship Team
at the Trans Pacific Union Mission

Mentoring Our Young People at Home



Trans Pacific



Mentoring: What it Involves

When Moses accepted the call to lead the children of Israel, he was not informed about how long he would be holding the office. Moses took up not only the mantle of leadership to direct the children of Israel through the desert to the borders of the Promised Land but also the role of being a mentor. In that role, he trained Joshua to become a future leader. Exodus 17:8, 9 introduces Joshua for the first time. As a good leader, Moses saw the leadership potential in those around him, encouraged the development of that potential, and gave them on-the-task training. Moses did not see a threat in Joshua but an opportunity to secure the future course of the history of God's people in the wilderness and on to the Promised Land. In the same manner, Elijah mentored Elisha. When Elijah saw Elisha, plowing his land with 12 yoke of oxen, he spotted a person whom God could use. At the prophet's bidding, Elisha ran after Elijah and accepted the summons to be mentored by him for the future ministry that awaited him (1 Kings 19:19–21). Later, Elisha learned the lessons of discipleship. He understood the importance of following Elijah until his time for leadership had come. The process of mentoring is a two-sided coin: the leader prepares, trains, and educates; the future leader follows, observes, learns, and awaits the appropriate time to assume the responsibilities of leadership. Spiritually speaking, mentoring has no room for power grabs. Before Elisha could assume leadership, he waited, walked, watched, and learned the way God expects a leader to be. The time for transition of leadership came when Elijah ascended to heaven, and his mantle fell upon Elisha. The new leader was ready to take charge and tried what his master did earlier. Elisha hit the waters of the Jordan with the mantle of Elijah and was excited to see a repeat of the miracle that they had witnessed earlier.² Often on the road of mentoring, those who are tutored tend to follow the attitudes of their teachers, and so we should learn the importance of mentors reflecting God's will and way as perfectly as they can.



It is important for you as parent/mentor to facilitate the discipleship experience for your child. Here are some tips to make this experience power-packed for your child:

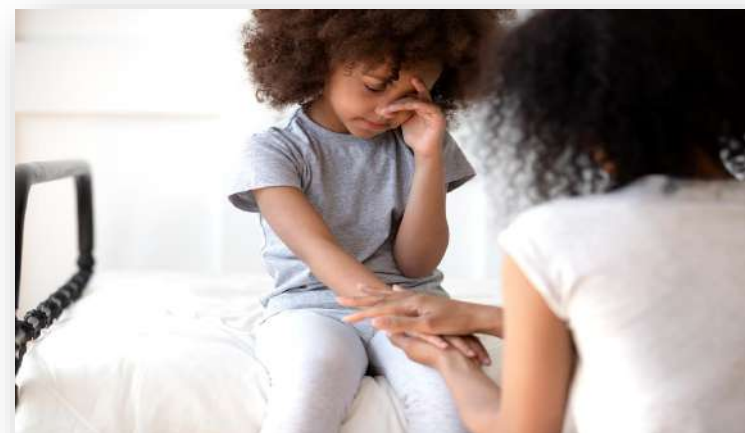
Tip 1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you

Tip 2. Focus on your child's discipleship journey

Tip 3. Commit to the process.

Actively participate each week.

Follow through with home activities.



3. Read Numbers 11: 24-29

What was Moses comfortable enough to do for Joshua?

4. Read Numbers 13:1-3,8; 14: 2-9

- a. What did Moses entrust with Joshua?
- b. How did Joshua validate Moses' trust?

5. Read Deuteronomy 31:14,23

How do we know that Moses was successful in mentoring Joshua?

6. Before his death, Joshua addressed God's people. Read Joshua 24: 14,15.

- a. What choice did Joshua present to them?
- b. What is significant to families about the choice Joshua made?

7. Read Judges 2:7

What were the long term effects of Moses' mentoring Joshua?

Moses was effective in mentoring Joshua. As a result of Moses mentoring, Joshua lived a life devoted to God, and God's people were blessed.

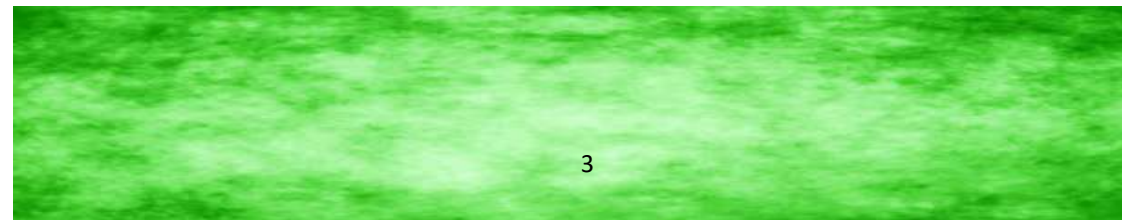
Revisit your early spiritual growth by remembering those persons who had a primary spiritual influence on you. Who led you to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior? Who helped you most in growing closer to Jesus.



BEING EFFECTIVE MENTORS

1. Be an encourager. Mentoring is by no means an easy task. Our mentees may not always meet our expectations.
2. Be ready to sacrifice. Mentoring can be a joyful experience when there is a sacrificial attitude. When mentors sacrifice something, this will be cherished in the hearts of their followers. I can recall my senior pastor's many acts of sacrifice and kindness. He once gave me his own personal Bible for my use, invited me to use his library for study, took time to pray with me, and was there when I needed him. These little acts of sacrifice cemented within me a resolve to be like him. His mentorship was a precious gift for the rest of my life. Without a spirit of sacrifice, one cannot be an effective leader, much less a successful mentor.
3. Lead from the front. From a biblical perspective, a leader or mentor lives as a shepherd. If you want to be a mentor, then you must become a shepherd, leading the sheep from the front, ready to lay down one's life for the safety of the flock. Paul stresses this important factor of leading from the front: "I urge you to imitate me" ([1 Cor. 4:16, NIV](#)). He also reminds the mentors to "follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" ([1 Cor. 11:1, NIV](#)).

Mentors are not cattle drivers; they are shepherds—caring, gentle leaders, showing the path of righteousness and service.



Why Is Mentoring Important

There's probably been countless moments in your life where you've leaned on someone you trust for advice or assistance. Whether the person you turn to is a professor, friend, family member, or other, the importance of mentors is undeniable. These people can help to guide, direct, and shape your present situation and future opportunities for the better.



Mentoring can be a life long relationship. With each child you encounter, you have the power and opportunity to build up...or sadly tear down. In Hebrews 12: 1-2 we read, “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. We have a duty to surround our children and youth with a “cloud of witnesses” we do not have to be perfect, we just need to be present to befriend, affirm and journey together for a while or for a lifetime.

Mentor Your Child to God

Connect:

We all remember experiences we have had in life. Some of our experiences involved other people who had an impact on us—either positive or negative. As we disciple our children to Jesus we want their experiences to be positive.



Moses and Joshua had a unique relationship similar in many ways to that of parent and child. During their years together, Joshua learned spiritual lessons from Moses that helped him choose to live for God and equipped him to take a leadership role with God's people. Let's discover the intentional process that Moses used to mentor Joshua.

Parents you will grow to trust Jesus more as you know that intentionally mentoring your child is vital to his/her spiritual development. You will feel empowered to mentor your child to Jesus and respond by being intentional in mentoring your child to Jesus.

ACTIVITY:

1. Read Exodus 17: 8-13

When Israel's enemy attacked, what did Moses do that empowered Joshua to fight them?

2. Read Exodus 24:12-14,33:7,11

What did Moses do to mentor Joshua to God?

Noteworthy Memory Events

- Create special daily, weekly and yearly rituals and traditions.
- Support your children as they participate in Conference wide memory events such as Camps.
- Allow your children to respond to God's call on their lives.
- Accompany them to events that allow them to be inspired by people with a vibrant faith.

God Encounters



- Provide experiences that allow children to encounter Jesus intimately, personally and regularly through prayer and reflection.
- Use worship activities that are experiential, multisensory and engaging.
- Tell awesome Bible stories and faith stories that reach the heart and mind.
- Provide opportunities for your children to experience and imagine how their personal story is intertwined with the big picture of the Bible.
- Help your children to enter into the wonder and mystery of the Bible through discussion and questioning and to respond using their individual gifts such as art, music, construction or drama.

<https://children.adventistchurch.com/shaping-faith-at-home/>

Definition of Mentoring

Mentoring is an intentional relationship where one person encourages another to realise their potential. A mentor is intentional about being a positive influence in another person's life. The intention is positive and encouraging.



Mentoring is also a relationship. It involves two people who interact with each other.

Mentoring is a process of Invitation and Response.

One person invites another to be part of their life and the other person either accepts or rejects that invitation.

What is a Mentor?

A mentor is one of these people who also takes a specific interest in the development of another person. A mentor is more than a coach or a teacher, or even a relative. A mentor is a person who is in one of those influential roles, but ALSO takes an interest in the development of another person.

A mentor can invite a relationship, but cannot force or create it as an individual. There must be a response from the other person.

A mentor encourages another person to realise potential. A mentor sees potential and fosters it. A mentor is there to acknowledge potential and intentionally seek to develop it in another person.

Mentor isn't as common a word as some others we would more commonly use for people in a similar role:

- Coach
- Tutor
- Teacher
- Advisor
- Friend



ACTIVITY:

WHAT DID YOU CALL THEM?

1. Are there other words you can think of for the influential roles people play in our lives? Take some time to talk about it as a group/family and add more words to the list above. (e.g. trainer, youth leader, etc)
2. Ask everyone in the group to think of five people outside of their immediate family who have been influential in their life. Ask them to write down their names and the title or relationship they had with that person (without using the term, "mentor")

The point is to realise that we tend to use many different terms to describe people of influence in our lives. But they all act as mentors when we allow them to be a positive influence in our own life.



Authentic Relationships

- Provide your children with positive role models and mentors from all generations.
- Be a good role model and build a trusting relationship.
- Talk to and play with your children.
- Ensure your children have safe environments and say No! to sexual, emotional and physical abuse.

Participation

- Accompany your children to church worship and programs.
- Ensure they can participate, use their gifts and feel that they belong.
- Guide and mentor them to participate in meaningful ways in church programs.
- Allow children to contribute in family worship.

Intergenerational Connections

- Plan for and engage your children in shared experiences with all generations and build authentic relationship with them.
- Worship in a church where there is a mix of all generations.
- Provide opportunities for generations to celebrate faith milestones and spiritual anchors together.
- Provide opportunities for your children to learn and serve alongside other generations.

Faith Shaper at Home

Shaping Faith at Home

As you plan to give your children the experiences they need for life-long faith, have a look at the following checklist and tick off how many practices you do. Put a star beside those that you are going to try.



Service and Mission

- Take your children with you as you build friendships with neighbours.
- Provide opportunities and resources for your children to serve others with you – home; neighbourhood; church; world.
- Provide opportunities for your children to respond with compassion and generosity.
- Encourage your children to share their faith story and Sabbath School Bible learning.

Homes Empowered

- Spend personal time to have your own God Encounters and develop a strong faith.
- Invest time and energy into your marriage.
- Have quality family fun times.
- Keep a balance between attending church programs and having family time.
- Celebrate every milestone or life stage of your children.
- Have regular family devotions, faith conversations and other family rituals and traditions.

MENTORING EMPOWERMENT

1. Spiritual Accompaniment

- ◆ Praying with them
- ◆ Life Example

2. Physical Accompaniment

- ◆ Practical Activities

3. Moral Accompaniment

- ◆ Help to have a life of commitment

4. Social Support

- ◆ Help in healthy relationships
- ◆ Nuclear family
- ◆ School family
- ◆ Church family



ACTIVITY:

Divide into pairs and decide between the two of you what you see as the three most important mentoring empowerment. Using the magazines, scissors, and markers at your table, make a poster that artistically represents the three you think are most important. This exercise will often enrich the meaning of mentoring in your own mind.



Pass It On

Gods Leadership Model

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it... (Exodus 17:14)

How to Pass on Values

From generation to generation values change. It is important to know what values are important today. Today, however, relationships between parents and children are very important because our busy lifestyle often crowds out time for deep and meaningful relationships.

Values are learned by copying the speech and actions of our parents. This is not only true in families but also in communities. Many values are caught not taught and they are caught from your life styles and as well as from your words. Modeling is one of the most powerful tools in passing on values. The people we live with are constantly watching us and will know how we react in specific situations. What do they see in you?



Activity

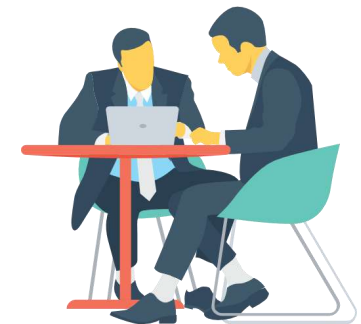
1. As a group, brainstorm to make up 10 scenarios that might display a strong or visible reaction in people (e.g. being stuck in a traffic jam when late for a meeting, etc...)
2. Then ask each person to write down their immediate reactions to each scenario.

Benefits of Mentoring for the child

- ◆ Stronger Relationships
- ◆ Higher Self-Esteem and Confidence
- ◆ Reduced Risk of Addiction
- ◆ Improved Behavior at Home and at School
- ◆ Lower Dropout Rates
- ◆ Better School Performance
- ◆ Healthier Lifestyle Choices

Benefits of Mentoring for Adults

- ◆ Understanding of Children
- ◆ Personal Fulfillment
- ◆ Improved Self Esteem
- ◆ New Relationships
- ◆ Improved Interpersonal Skills
- ◆ Perspective



Empowering Youth

"Let our sons in their youth be as grown-up plants, and our daughters as corner pillars fashioned as for a palace"

(Ps. 144:12)

"Strength is the glory of young people" **(Proverbs 20:29).**

"Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."

(1 Timothy 5:1-2)

Being a Mentor

- ◆ You must win the right to be heard
- ◆ Believe in the mentor partner
- ◆ Be prepared to give time
- ◆ Be prepared to be real
- ◆ Listen
- ◆ Respect their agenda
- ◆ Model character
- ◆ Seek Humility
- ◆ Guide the search for direction
- ◆ Point to support
- ◆ Keep your promise
- ◆ Leave a legacy
- ◆ You will need a mentor
- ◆ Know what to ask
- ◆ Be careful of the other gender
- ◆ Be accountable
- ◆ Don't run ahead
- ◆ Finish gracefully



Activity

- Group discussion: Do you have time to be a mentor? If you don't have enough time, is that the way you want it? What would you change?
- Divide into pairs (groups) and discuss what kind of a mentoring relationship might end up being an inappropriate relationship. Try to think of type of relationships that might not be obviously wrong but could end up being negative. Spend time reviewing some of the scenarios with the whole group.

3. Next, pair up with another person and share your 'reactions' about few of the scenarios. What do you say or do? How do you feel?

Your reactions reflect what values you are modelling to others.

Making It Happen

Small Group

Small groups is a powerful way to connect children to a mentor and help them flourish. Reggie Joiner in the book *Creating a Lead Small Culture* believe in the premise that “when we lead small we simply make a choice to invest strategically in the lives of a few over time so we can help them build an authentic faith.” The book provides five simple and effective strategies that will help to build authentic faith. This framework for small group ministry emphasizes:



- ◆ Helping group members to connect their faith with their community.
- ◆ Creating a safe place for group members to grow
- ◆ Helping group members to nurture their faith by engaging with their parents at a spiritual level.
- ◆ Inspiring group members by the leader's example.
- ◆ Giving group members the opportunity of missional serving.

Hobby/interest groups

This is the ideal way to allow mentoring to occur in an informal manner. Common interests and goals provide a focal point but also a distraction that adults and children can do together but also allows for the important informal mentoring to

Family/Church Social Events

The church is in the unique position to provide events when families and mentors can socialize on a regular basis this also allows for the informal mentoring to occur in a safe setting. The church needs to be more intentional in providing mentoring forums and opportunities.

Service Activities

Church organized service projects is another way to create an event/program that serves others in the community whilst allowing families and mentors to work together. Mentoring must involve both preaching and practice, instruction and involvement, explanation and exercise.

Intergenerational Worship

We live in a world where children are often divided into age appropriate groups to allow effective and relevant instruction to occur. However, children, especially when it comes to corporate worship, need to rub shoulders with the older generations in their congregations. This provides an environment where the child and mentors can rub shoulders and grow spiritually together. The key here is for leaders to create an order of worship that is relevant to all generations across the spectrum.

You can shape a kid's faith by connecting them to caring adults who will be present in their life.

Jesus is the model for engaging people in conversation while doing real things." Come follow me," Jesus said. They did. And along the way He equipped them to change the world, and they did that too.

Listening Ear

We all need someone who listens to us and shows support. A spiritual mentor does not necessarily speak into your life all of the time. They realize that sometimes, you just need someone to listen without judgment. They show understanding because they have most likely experienced similar things, and they are there for you during both good and bad times.

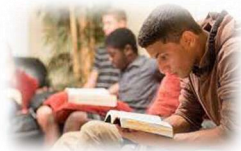
Spiritual Growth

A spiritual mentor is someone who cares about you and wants the best for you. They know that the most important thing in life is to have a personal relationship with Christ, so they encourage you to invest in this relationship. As a result, you can grow spiritually and become mature in your faith.

Ten ways to be a Mentor

1. Learn the names of the children in your church.
2. Become a Sabbath School/Adventurer/Pathfinder leader.
3. Start a craft/hobby group for children in your home/church hall.
4. Volunteer at your school.
5. Run a regular vacation bible school.
6. Adopt a grans child, pray for them and invest in them.
7. Genuinely listen to the children in your congregation.
8. Invite children and their families along on a regular service project.
9. Grow a community garden.
10. Be creative find ways to spend time and invest in the children in your church.

Here are just some of the many benefits that come with having a spiritual mentor:



Affirmation and Encouragement

As humans, we desire to receive affirmation and be encouraged. A spiritual mentor can be someone who believes in you, despite your shortcomings. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” In life, there are ups and downs. When you are at a low point, a mentor can remind you of your value in Christ and encourage you to keep going.

Role Model

A spiritual mentor leads by example. They realize it is not necessarily the words they say, but it is their actions that speak the loudest. They seek to honor God in the choices they make on a daily basis, and this provides guidance for those they mentor and encourages them to do the same.

Accountability

Unfortunately, it can be easy to fall into sin and lose sight of your relationship with Christ. A spiritual mentor can be someone who is honest with you and tells you when you need to turn your focus back to God. As a result, they can keep you from continuing in a life of sin and encourage you to live in a way that is honorable to God.

Advice

A spiritual mentor can offer wise counsel when it comes to some of life’s toughest decisions. As someone who has walked the road before you, a mentor can guide you in the right direction and steer you away from mistakes they previously made. They can prepare you for what is to come and offer advice from a Christian perspective.

Benefits of Mentoring

“Every young person needs at least one adult who is irrationally committed to their well-being. Millions of children grow up virtually alone – disconnected from adults. No love. No supervision. No positive role models. Yet these people must still find their way - they still grow up to become adults. Children can endure the most miserable conditions even thrive in the midst of them, if they have at least one loving adult committed to their success.

(Wayne Rice – ND for Youth Ministry)



This quote highlights the need for everyone to have someone who cares about them. There is an increasing need for younger people to have an adult to be significant in their lives.

ACTIVITY

Find someone to pair up with. Then share with each other what benefits have you received from having someone in your life “mentoring” you?

Reasons for Mentoring

What are the main reasons for mentoring? Why is it a responsibility that each person should embrace? How do our actions and attitudes impact on the future of our society?



Mentoring can help adolescents learn values from another adult’s perspective. The partner chooses the mentor because they

are attracted to the character/values of that person.

The following are 8 key reasons:

1. Mentoring Instils Positive Values
2. Mentoring Develop Individual Potential
3. Mentoring Improves Self Confidence
4. Mentoring Provides Opportunities for 'Sorting out' Life Issues
5. Mentoring Shows a Model of Service to Others
6. Mentoring Decreases Self-Centredness
7. Mentoring Brings Accountability
8. Mentoring Develops Resilience

Mentoring is more than just feeling good about helping someone. It is a necessary aspect for human development in many areas.

Who has shaped your life?

- ◆ List those people who have made a difference in your life:
- ◆ In your family
- ◆ In your church or club
- ◆ In your sport
- ◆ In your school
- ◆ In your work



ACTIVITY:

Take some time now to make a list of those people who have shaped you in these areas of your life. Note whether you have recognized these people as significant in your life. Do you need to say or write something to them? Make a note to do it.

Spiritual Mentorship

Spiritual mentorship is the act of intentionally nurturing the growth of a disciple (disciple, in this case, is a follower of Jesus Christ). The term "spiritual mentorship" is not one you will find in the Bible, however, it is a practice we find frequently throughout the Bible. We see it in the relationships of Moses and Joshua, Eli and Samuel, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and His



disciples and Paul and Timothy (just to mention a few). Unfortunately, although this intentional mentorship is a common theme within the Bible, it is not a common practice in most churches and families today.

This is unfortunate, as this form of mentorship is a part of the model we see Christ living out throughout the gospels as he made disciples – and so every Christian should partake in it, either by being a mentor, a mentee or both.

Spiritual mentorship is crucial, especially in the time we live in.
