



MENTORING MINISTRIES

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Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. Titus 2:3-5 (NIV)

Mentoring happens naturally between women. In times past, it happened in the sewing or quilting circle or perhaps while processing summer vegetables. Mentoring was a natural part of relationships between women.

Today, mentoring may look different because of our cultural shifts, but it still occurs naturally in our relationships with other women. Now, in our women's ministries, we may need to plan activities to foster mentoring relationships which happened as a part of everyday life only a few decades ago. Keep in mind that mentoring happens through Bible studies, life skills classes such as sewing or cooking, and special events, as well as intentional mentoring plans.

Sometimes we think of mentoring as an optional ministry effort, considering it only when we have established and staffed all other ministries. However, Scripture teaches us, in Titus 2:2-3, that it is a command straight from the heart of God for older women in the faith to mentor younger women. It occurs as a woman lives out her faith and invites other women to "walk with her" on the journey.

I hope you will discover that mentoring is a natural part of women reaching out to other women through relationships, and those relationships are made possible through Bible studies and other activities of your church's ministry to women. Consider using some of the following resources to promote mentoring among the women of your church.

Mentoring Through Bible Studies

By planning Bible studies where younger and older women are together, mentoring can occur through the life experiences that a Bible study draws out. Encouragement and wisdom are shared during the discussion time and prayer time. As women become comfortable with one another, they begin to reveal their deepest needs. This may open the door for a woman to enter into a more intentional mentoring relationship. The Holy Spirit has become the guide and director of this type of mentoring.

Bible studies based around life skills can lead to intentional mentoring. Some examples are:

Conversation Peace by Mary Kassian. Lessons for women about how to “tame the tongue” and communicate in more positive ways. 7 sessions. Lifeway Christian Resources, c2001.

The Virtuous Woman: Shattering the Superwoman Myth by Vicki Courtney. Truths from Proverbs 31 as a passage entirely relevant to today’s woman. 6 sessions. Lifeway Christian Resources, c2000.

Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life by Beth Moore. Women are encouraged to destroy the strongholds of past experiences that deplete emotional and spiritual energy and keep women from reaching their full spiritual maturity. 11 sessions. Lifeway Christian Resources, c1999.

Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby and Claude King. Blackaby and King have written a Bible study that will open your eyes to the marvelous ways that God works in the lives of believers and how God invites you to join Him there. 12 sessions. Lifeway Christian Resources, c1998.

Friendships of Purpose: A Shared Study of Ephesians by Edna Ellison. Designed for “two friends to experience together” and connect with God’s purpose for your life. 6 sessions. New Hope Publishers, c2005.

Friend to Friend: Enriching Friendships through a Shared Study of Philippians by Edna Ellison. Another in the series of studies that two friends share together. 10 sessions. New Hope Publishers, c2002.

The Mentoring Mom: 11 Ways to Model Christ for Your Child by Jackie Kendall. Helps moms live a daily example of Christ before their children. 12 sessions. New Hope Publishers, c2006.

Mentoring Through Life Skills Classes

By planning some classes around a life skill, you can help women establish relationships through a common need, like cooking, sewing, gardening or organizing their home or calendar.

Survey the women in your church to determine which life skills they are interested in learning, as well as what they might be able to teach. Don’t be surprised to discover that parenting or marriage skills are popular topics.

Recommended resources:

Creative Correction by Lisa Welchel. Help for moms of children with behavioral problems. 7 sessions. Lifeway Christian Resources, c2005.

Your Girl: A Bible Study for Mothers of Teens by Vicki Courtney. Learn about six fierce battles of the teen years. 7 sessions. Lifeway Christian Resources, c2004.

Bringing Up Boys by James Dobson. Dr. Dobson explains why boys are the way they are, how to understand their emotional and physical development and the best way to motivate them to become godly men. Available as a book, audio CD or video series. Focus on the Family, c2001.

HomeBuilders Couples Series by Dennis and Barbara Rainey. This series offers multiple titles in the areas of parenting and marriage. *Building Teamwork in Your Marriage; Building Your Marriage; Building Your Mate's Self-Esteem; Growing Together in Christ; Improving Communication in your Marriage; Making Your Remarriage Last; Mastering Money in Your Marriage; Overcoming Stress in your Marriage; Raising Children of Faith; Resolving Conflict in Your Marriage.* www.familylife.com.

Mom to Mom by Linda Schultz Anderson has three years of curriculum. Year One: *Heart Talk on What Really Matters.* 12 sessions; Year Two: *Three Keys to Effective Parenting.* 16 sessions; Year Three: *Growing Together: Growing a Child=Growing a Mom.* 16 sessions. Lifeway Christian Resources.

Apples of Gold by Betty Huizenga. This nurturing ministry centers on cooking skills while studying some of the key elements of Titus 2. Its companion piece, *Gifts of Gold*, is a guide for gathering, training, and encouraging mentors. 6 sessions. Focus on the Family, c2002.

Mentoring Through Intentional Mentoring Ministries

Woman to Woman Mentoring by Janet Thompson: This is a one-year plan to start, grow and maintain an intentional mentoring ministry between women. The Leader Kit includes a Ministry Coordinator Guide, Training Leaders Guide, and Mentor and Mentee Handbooks. A DVD and video promotions are also included. Lifeway Christian Resources, c2000.

Mentoring Women in Crisis

Women are uniquely gifted to understand the emotional needs of other women. They also have the biblical mandate to use the comfort which they have been comforted with during their time of crisis to comfort others.

Recommended resources:

Refresh: Sharing Stories: Building Faith by Kathy Escobar & Laura Greiner. This resource, designed with the younger woman in mind, is a collection of real stories from real women offering hope and encouragement to women in many different situations. 11 sessions. New Hope Publishers, c2007.

God's Heart God's Hands: Reaching out to Hurting Women by Denise George. Practical and biblical ways to help women in distress and to show them the Love of Christ. New Hope Publishers, c2004.

A Woman with a Past, A God with a Future: Embracing God's Transforming Love by Elsa Kok. Helping women shed harmful habits, poor choices, and damaging relationships. 12 sessions. New Hope Publishers, c2006.

The Support and Recovery Series: Books in this series include: *The Search for Significance Workbook*; *Build Your Self-Worth on God's Truth*; *Recovering from the Losses of Life*; *Strength for the Journey: A Biblical Perspective on Discouragement and Depression*; *Making Peace with Your Past*. Lifeway Christian Resources.

Picking up the Pieces Series. Books in this series include: *Redeeming the Tears: A Journey Through Grief and Loss*; *Stop the Madness: Freedom from Addictions*; *Recovering from Divorce: Overcoming the Death of a Dream*; *Radical Reconciliation: Healing Broken Relationships*. Serendipity House.

Mentoring Young Girls

Older women can have a tremendous impact on the life choices of young girls as well as younger women in the church. While we are mentoring young mothers in their parenting and life skills, we can also plan intentional times of mentoring for girls and teens. A young girl needs to know that she is valued by the women of her church. Sunday school teachers and Missions Education teachers have the potential for significant impact on the future of young girls. The women of the church can be the spiritual mentors of young girls and teens.

As you plan your ministry calendar, include some significant special events for women and girls together. Two resources are the “Muslim Prayer Tea” and the “Flavors of West Africa: A Coffee and Chocolate Themed Prayer Event,” available from the International Mission Board. Imagine women and girls learning and praying together for God to move in another part of the world. Girls will learn that their skills and abilities are important to the Kingdom of God. They will feel that they belong and are part of the ministries of the women in the church.

Other Resources for mentoring girls are:

Growing Godly Women: A Christian Woman’s Guide to Mentoring Teenage Girls by Donna Green. This is a resource for the woman who has felt God tug on her heart to reach out to young girls. It tells readers how to develop an intentional ministry to teenage girls. New Hope Publishers, c2002.

Appleseeds: A Mentoring Program for Preteen Girls by Betty Huizenga. The focus of this resource is to teach young girls (ages 9 to 12) how important they are to God, to their family and to others around them. 10 sessions. Focus on the Family, c2002.

General Mentoring Resources:

A Garden Path to Mentoring by Esther Burroughs. New Hope Publishers, c1997.

Spiritual Mothering by Susan Hunt. Crossway Books, c1992.

Transformed Lives: Taking Women's Ministry to the Next Level. Compiled by Chris Adams. Lifeway Christian Resources, c1999.

Mentoring Millennials: Shaping the Next Generation by Dr. Daniel Egeler. Dr. Egeler addresses the concepts of effectively impacting the teenagers of a new millennium. Along with intriguing stories of mentoring, Dr. Egeler gives the reader practical ways to shape the lives of young people. Navpress, c2003.

Woman to Woman: Preparing Yourself to Mentor by Edna Ellison with Tricia Scribner. New Hope Publishers, c2005.

Women Reaching Women: Beginning and Building a Growing Women's Ministry. Compiled by Chris Adams. Lifeway Christian Resources, c2005.