

# Mentoring

A relational approach to student ministry

A high commitment to growing others

A communal journey with God and his Word



A contribution from the global IFES Scripture Engagement team

*...to prepare God's people for works of service*

*so that  
the body of Christ may be built up*

*until we all*

*reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the  
Son of God*

*and*

*become mature  
attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of  
Christ.*

(Ephesians 4:12-13)

None of us would be where we are today without others. We all need others to journey with us and serve us if we are to grow to maturity.

As an illustration, think of a music student who has reached the goal of playing in an excellent orchestra. For him to achieve that goal, many people will have invested in him along the way: an experienced musician who equipped him with knowledge, advice and discipline; his peers who shared the same challenges and walked through them helping one another, and his loved ones who supported and encouraged the student never to give up.

Mentoring is about helping others to grow. Something beautiful happens when we invest in others so they are able to serve the whole body of Christ and the world that he loves.

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### **Mentoring: A relational approach to ministry, a high commitment to growing others, a communal journey with God and his Word**

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A digital version of this resource is available at: [scriptureengagement.ifesworld.org](http://scriptureengagement.ifesworld.org). See also this website for further materials on Scripture Engagement.

## Introduction

How can we ensure that each new generation of students loves, studies, lives and shares God's Word? If this is what we want to strengthen in our student movements, we do not only need good programmes, but also, and more importantly, people – people who are passionate about God's Word and willing to invest in the lives of students.



Explore the IFES vision for Scripture Engagement with the help of the booklet *The Word Among Us*.

You can download a digital version at [www.scriptureengagement.ifesworld.org](http://www.scriptureengagement.ifesworld.org)

As a global Scripture engagement team in IFES, this conviction motivated us to develop a resource on mentoring. Ministry is never just about what I do; it is also about who I am encouraging and equipping. In the midst of various initiatives and programmes, we always want to be growing other people. As we do so, we trust that these people in their turn will bless others.

When you look at the table of contents for this resource, you will realise that only one part of it is very specifically about growing multipliers for Scripture engagement. We chose a broader approach to mentoring for a number of reasons:

- At the heart of Scripture engagement lies our relationship with Jesus. When mentoring others, we do not only want to equip them for a certain ministry, but to encourage them to grow in their intimacy with Jesus, in their walk with him.
- In the IFES Living Stones Vision 2020, Scripture engagement, prayer and community are our three core commitments, whose role is “to surround and support every aspect of IFES life.” With this resource, we hope to spark a vision and ideas for integrating Scripture engagement and prayer into any and every mentoring focus.
- We want to see more mentoring relationships emerge within the context of our IFES ministry. This resource seeks to offer both convictions and practical help towards this end. But our dream is larger: we want to help shape a culture that is committed to investing in others for the sake of the kingdom of God and in which we discover the joy of seeing others grow. That is the big picture within which mentoring is one possible format alongside many others.

Walking alongside others and intentionally investing in them over a longer period of time might not look spectacular. It is like planting small seeds, trusting that God will grow them well beyond what we can see today.

Enjoy reading this resource, and growing in your experience of giving and receiving mentoring!

## Our Dream: A Culture of Growing One Another

Imagine the following characteristics shaping your student group/movement...

Rejoicing in the strengths and successes of one another (instead of comparison and competition)

Being deeply committed to using our gifts, influence and time in helping others to grow

Asking: How can I help others grow in their knowledge of Jesus and become mature in their faith? (and not only asking: How can I grow and develop as a Christian?) See Ephesians 4:11-16

Relating to one another with the expectation that we can learn from each brother and sister, regardless of age and experience

Making space for others to discover and develop their gifts

Journeying together in honesty and openness so that we are able to support and encourage one another

Meeting failure with grace so that mistakes become a learning opportunity

Giving more attention to people than to programmes

Helping one another look to Jesus and trust his presence and work in all things

### For reflection and further reading:

Which aspects of this dream have you already experienced? How is this happening in existing relationships and what do you long for?

Many New Testament passages spell out what it means to live “a culture of one another”: John 13:13-17; John 13:34-35; Romans 15:7; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:32-5:2; Ephesians 5:21; Colossians 3:9-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15; 1 Peter 4:8-11; Hebrews 10:24-25.

A culture of growing one another can express itself in many ways – praying for others, giving pastoral care, discipling, sharing life, forgiving wrongs, equipping and mentoring for example. In this resource, we focus on mentoring as an approach that we have found helpful and relevant for different contexts. Within IFES various perspectives and experiences can be found with regard to mentoring – what follows is just one contribution within this wider field.

## Characteristics of Mentoring



When we speak of mentoring, we are referring to relationships that are characterised by the following:

**\_intentionality.** The relationship has an aim; it is seeking growth in the life of the mentee. This aim will always be specific and go beyond learning certain skills to include changed attitudes, deepened convictions and character growth;

**\_relational involvement.** Mentoring is not just about passing on knowledge or competence, but about sharing life;

**\_continuity.** Mentors and mentees journey together over a period of time with at least some degree of regularity in their interaction;

**\_trust.** Mentees believe that they can learn something from the mentor and can entrust themselves to the mentor; mentors see potential in their mentees and trust that they are willing to grow;

**\_voluntary.** Mentoring relationships result from the free choice of both the mentor and the mentee. This means that they will typically be outside of formal supervision structures. Supervision is not the same as mentoring though it might include some aspects of it.

The focus of this resource is on **one-to-one mentoring**: one mentor invests in one mentee. Normally, the mentor will be more mature and experienced. It is also possible for a mentor to be at a similar stage of life as the mentee, but to have more experience in a certain area – for example, a student leader mentoring a new student in leading a Bible study.

**There are also other formats of mentoring.** Much of what is said in this resource can be adapted to them:

**Group mentoring:** one person walks alongside and invests in a defined group of people.

**Specialist mentoring:** one person helps a person or a group of people to grow in a very specific competence.

**Mutual mentoring:** two or more people journey together and help one another to grow. This means that everyone is both mentor and mentee.

**Mentoring in the area of Scripture engagement, can involve any or all of the following:**

- encouraging to reflect honestly and go deep in one's journey with God's Word;
- spending time together in the Word;
- mentoring an individual or a group in a specific area of Scripture engagement (specialist mentoring), for example, in leading evangelistic Bible studies, preaching, running a Scripture engagement consultation, or the use of arts in Scripture engagement;
- seeing potential and encouraging the mentee to discover and develop his/her gifts in the area of Scripture engagement;
- creating opportunities to serve in the area of Scripture engagement and walking alongside the mentee as he/she takes new steps;
- helping mentees to reflect on how they can be a multiplier of Scripture engagement in their context;
- sharing one's own approach to Scripture, joys, struggles, and lessons learnt;
- helping to discern how God's Word is speaking into the ordinary experiences of the mentee's life.

**For further reflection:**

Who mentored you in the area of Scripture engagement?

What lessons can you learn from these people for mentoring?

## Biblical Foundations

In Scripture, we find many examples of relationships that can inspire us for mentoring such as Elijah-Elisha, Jesus-his disciples, Barnabas-Paul, Paul-Timothy. But when seeking biblical foundations, we need to dig deeper and ask fundamental questions such as:

- How does God see each person and how can I enter into his perspective?
- How is the journey of each individual embedded in God's big story from creation to consummation?
- How is the process of growth described and characterised in the Bible?
- What is the work of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian and how can mentoring take this into account?
- How does mentoring fit into the biblical vision for Christian community?
- How does Scripture help inform the ultimate purpose and aim of mentoring?

This resource is not the place to answer these questions; they are for your further study. What follows is simply an attempt to underline a few biblical convictions that are relevant for mentoring:

**Through the Holy Spirit, God lives and is at work in each believer (Acts 2:38-39).** This gives us great hope. In mentoring, we do not only look at our resources and challenges and plan the way ahead; we always want to be looking to God as well, seeking his agenda and trusting in what he can do.

**Christian faith and ministry is about community.** As believers, we become part of the body of Christ in need of one another (1 Corinthians 12:12ff). Christ becomes visible to the world in the way we live our relationships (John 13:35; 17:23). We are sent to do ministry together: Jesus sends his disciples out in teams (Luke 10:1ff); Paul was always surrounded by other people who were crucial for him and his ministry (2 Timothy 4:9-22). Mentoring relationships reflect this conviction. Yet, they are not self-sufficient; mentoring relationships need to be embedded in a wider Christian community.

**Growth as described in the Bible is not about ensuring success or leaving behind all struggles and difficulties. What is it about?**

- "*until Christ is formed in you*" – this is how Paul describes the purpose of his ministry among the Galatians (4:19). Christian growth is about becoming more like Christ. (cf. Romans 8:29)
- God prunes us because he wants our lives to be fruitful. The key to this is one thing: remaining in Christ. We grow as Christians as we grow in our intimacy with and dependence on Christ. (John 15:1ff) Paul speaks of growing up *into* Christ (Ephesians 4:15)
- The fruit of the Spirit that Paul describes in Galatians 5:22 is primarily about how we live relationships.
- Our ministry will often be done in weakness. Growth is not about learning to be strong, but about deepening our trust in God's grace and his strength. (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- We do not just grow for our own sake, but so that we in turn can invest in other people – one aim of growth is always multiplication. (Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 2:2)
- Our growth brings glory to God. Its purpose is not for us to be admired, but for God to be worshipped. (Matthew 5:16; John 15:8; Colossians 1:3-4)

We leave it to you to explore further aspects of growth in Scripture.



## Trusting God's Work in Mentoring

No matter what the focus of a mentoring relationship is, if it takes place in a Christian context, then both the mentee and the mentor are invited to trust that God is at work in the mentoring process. How does this play out practically in mentoring?

### Both the mentor and the mentee:

\_turn to God in prayer asking him to lead the process and bring growth. The mentor is committed to praying for the mentee and encourages him/her to be dialoguing with God as well.

\_believe that God's living Word speaks to all aspects of life and has the power to change us. The mentee spends time in Scripture so that this can happen; the mentor might invite the mentee to meditate on certain portions of Scripture.

\_seek to discern the presence of God and how he is speaking into the life of the mentee. This involves listening not only to one another, but also to God. The mentor and mentee seek to see life from God's perspective.

*God, who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

(Philippians 1:6)

\_trust that God in his time will help the mentee to grasp insights, develop character and take steps of faith. Therefore, the mentor does not push his/her own agenda or try to accelerate the process.

\_do not give up when things do not work out as planned. Frustrations, failures and setbacks are not a problem for God, but often open up space for God to do a deeper work than what we were seeking.

\_are clear about what God does and what the mentor does. The mentee does not come expecting the mentor to lead him/her or to have all the solutions; the mentor does not get in the way of the mentee's relationship to God by making the mentee dependent on himself/herself. Instead, both let God be God.

### **Putting this into practice:**

Paul's prayers can inspire the content of our prayers for the mentoring process: Philippians 1:1-11; Colossians 1:3-13; Ephesians 3:14-21; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

### **Putting this into practice:**

As a mentor, including some of the following questions in conversations with the mentee can help to discern God's work with regard to the aspect of life being discussed in mentoring:

- Where do you sense God in all of this?
- How has God been speaking to you in these past weeks/months? Has any word from Scripture stood out for you?
- What is God inviting you into as you walk through this experience?
- What do you want to say to God about this experience? What do you want to ask of him?

# Starting a Mentoring Relationship

## With whom?



### Some qualities to look for in potential mentees:

- reliability and teachability
- commitment to seeking growth in this season of their life
- potential and desire to serve others with their gifts
- willingness to take responsibility for his/her own journey

### Some qualities to look for in a potential mentor:

- someone from whom the mentee would like to learn with regard to his/her gifting, maturity and/or experience
- someone who has the ability to listen to the life of the mentee and can clearly see and articulate what is needed for growth
- someone who is available and accessible

We also want to be asking: to whom is the Holy Spirit leading us?

## How? Possible steps you can take...

**As a mentee:** pray; let others know that you are looking for a mentor; take the initiative to approach someone: "I would like to grow in this or that area (be specific) – could you help me?"



**As a mentor:** pray; explicitly show availability and willingness; intentionally start spending time with and investing into potential mentees and wait to see how relationships develop; offer to invest in someone in whom you see potential without imposing yourself.

Depending on the context and culture, other steps might be more appropriate.

## What? These things are worth talking about at the start of a mentoring relationship:

- Purpose of the mentoring – what is the mentee hoping to learn or to change in his/her life?
- Expectations of the mentee and the mentor towards one another
- Frequency, length and format of time spent together
- Confidentiality of everything shared
- Duration of mentoring – after which a new decision is made as to whether the mentoring continues or comes to a close

## Things to keep in mind...

- Mentoring relationships are voluntary; those willing to mentor must be very careful not to impose themselves or their agenda on potential mentees.
- Face-to-face time strengthens the mentoring relationship – it is important to meet and not only to be communicating through the internet or phone. When entering into a long-distance mentoring relationship, it is important to realise that this comes with significant limitations.
- Finishing a mentoring relationship well is just as important as starting it well. Either the mentor or the mentee can decide to bring the mentoring to a close.

## Role of the Mentor and Mentee

It is helpful for both the mentor and the mentee to be clear about their roles. The role will differ depending on the context.

The following table can serve as a starting point for reflecting on one's role:

<b>Role of the Mentor</b>	<b>Role of the Mentee</b>
Appreciate – the mentee needs to feel safe and affirmed	Give trust by honestly sharing from their life and not hiding behind masks
Listen well so that the mentee is given space to articulate and develop their own thoughts	Voice own questions, themes and expectations clearly
Ask good questions – this is often more important than trying to offer answers	Take full responsibility for their life and development
Encourage – help the mentee to see and develop their potential, to take steps of faith	Respect the mentor's point of view, listening and reflecting on what is said
Be an example – this will include allowing the mentee to look into one's life	Be willing to take steps for change
Give feedback – we learn much through good feedback. This can be based on simply listening to the mentee or seeing him/her do something	Seek to bless others through what is learned in the mentoring experience
Help the mentee to follow Jesus and seek to become more like him (and not to follow and copy the mentor)	Keep the hunger to become more like Jesus
The role of the mentor IS NOT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to do most of the talking</li> <li>- to tell the mentee what to do or how to solve his/her problems</li> <li>- to use the mentee in order to fulfil own plans</li> </ul>	The role of the mentee IS NOT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to be passive and give the mentor responsibility for whether or not growth happens;</li> <li>- to follow everything the mentor says or does</li> </ul>



### **Stop and take a moment to think very concretely about how mentoring might be relevant to your life:**

In which area of your life/ministry do you want to grow in this season of your life? Who could you approach and ask to mentor you?

In whom do you want to be intentionally investing? Write down the names of people in whom you are already investing. Add names of people in whom you see the qualities of a mentee. Let this become a prayer list.

## Living Out a Mentoring Relationship

There are many ways to live out a mentoring relationship; here are some ideas:

**\_Having intentional conversations.** These are at the heart of mentoring. The mentor and the mentee regularly set a time in which they interact. The conversations will be more beneficial if the mentee comes prepared – having thought about the experiences and questions that he/she wants to talk about. These then set the agenda as the mentor listens, asks questions, helps debrief and gives feedback. A mentor and mentee might also decide to choose a topical book or a book/character from Scripture to discuss in their time together.

**\_Spending time together.** Having informal time together helps the mentor and mentee to get to know each other better and to build trust. Meaningful conversations might well also come up during this time. Such times might involve going out for a walk, having coffee together or inviting each other for a meal. If the mentor and mentee do not live in the same place, it is worth making the effort to visit one another periodically.

**\_Working together on certain projects.** Doing something together and then reflecting on the experience is a great way of helping the mentee to learn. This might involve working together as a team in leading a Bible study, running a conference or producing materials, for example.

**\_Entering into the context of the mentee.** If the mentor has the opportunity to get to know the mentee's context then this can deepen the mentor's understanding for the mentee's situation. Maybe it is even possible to observe how the mentee does something in his/her context – this can provide a good basis for giving feedback that both affirms and helps improve.

**\_Keeping a journal.** For the learning process, it can be very helpful for the mentee to keep of journal of what he/she is discovering and experiencing. It might help the mentor to make a few notes of key issues discussed and prayer requests, keeping these in a confidential place.



Mentoring is enjoyable and it is hard work for both the mentor and the mentee. It takes time for a relationship to grow and deepen; disappointments and frustrations may well be a part of the journey. Patience, perseverance and a commitment to the learning process are necessary – as well as trust that God is at work and will grow fruit in his time.

## Mutual Mentoring

As we said earlier in this resource, mutual mentoring is when two or more people journey together and help one another to grow.

Maybe you are looking for a mentor and cannot easily or immediately find a more mature and experienced person in your context. It may be easier to find someone at a similar stage of life who shares your desire to grow. Then you can mentor one another.



Here are some examples of what mutual mentoring relationships can look like:

- In an already existing friendship, you can share in which areas you both want to grow and how you can help each other in the process. This will involve intentionally making space for deep and serious conversations to happen. Spending time together in Scripture and prayer can be a key part of the learning process.
- You can connect with someone else who has a similar responsibility or question in which he/she also wants to grow. You do not necessarily need to know each other well to start mentoring one another mutually. For example, two students leading Bible study groups on different campuses decide to journey together. Or one new staff worker connects with another new staff worker.
- You can create a network of people who are involved and want to grow in a similar area – for example, a network of students sharing and encouraging one another with regard to personal evangelism on campus or a group of Scripture engagement multipliers connecting across a national movement. Such networks can go beyond the local context; they do not always need to meet face to face, but can use internet platforms to communicate.

Relationships of mutual mentoring will have the characteristics mentioned earlier in this resource: intentionality; relational involvement; continuity; trust and voluntariness. In mutual mentoring, it is important to make sure that each person is given a similar amount of space and that not just the journey of one person becomes the focus. Those involved need the ability to listen, not to impose themselves, and to affirm the other person, desiring to see their growth. They also need an awareness of their limitations to help one another; there may well be situations in which it is wise to seek the advice or biblical competence of an older person.

Mutual mentoring highlights that we can all learn from one another. We have so much to give one another; let's not limit mentoring to seeking someone special or ideal as a mentor.

## Raising Scripture Engagement Multipliers Through Mentoring

Good mentoring leads to multiplication. As Paul writes to Timothy: *“The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”* (2 Timothy 2:2)

Strengthening Scripture engagement in our student movements will happen not only through programmes, but through people who are passionate about God’s Word, have learned to study it well and are able to pass this on to others. Let us be looking out for students, staff and graduates who can become such Scripture engagement multipliers. And then, invest in them.

What qualities are we looking for as we seek potential Scripture engagement multipliers? That will depend on the context and its needs, but the following might be worth keeping in mind:

- passion for God’s Word: a sense of wonder at the treasure to be found in Scripture and joy in studying it;
- evidence of being faithful and committed in taking on responsibilities;
- some experience and basic training in leading Bible studies or other forms of Scripture engagement;
- ability to communicate well and a desire to serve others with their gifts;
- some degree of influence in their context.

In addition, the general qualities mentioned when looking out for a mentee on page 10 are also relevant.

### Some Examples from the IFES World:

#### Walking Together in an Ongoing Formación Experience

*From 2015-2017, an ongoing formación was held for a small group of ten Scripture engagement multipliers in French-speaking Africa. Each participant came from a different country of the region. The program consisted of one physical meeting every year and learning experiences in between these meetings. These included the in-depth study of a biblical book, other readings and the practical implementation of Scripture engagement initiatives in student ministry. During the course of this formación, we as a leadership team stayed in conversation with the participants and mentored them on the phone and at the meetings. Since then, several mentees developed multiplication initiatives in their own contexts including the formación of a group of Scripture engagement multipliers in Guinea Conakry and Togo, retreats in Burundi, and seminars in DRC and Togo.*

*Having been mentored myself by several people at different stages of my life, I felt blessed and privileged to have in return this opportunity of investing into others, helping them to grow in their walk and ministry with Scripture.*

Dieudonné Tindano, Burkina Faso, Scripture Engagement Coordinator for IFES Francophone Africa (GBUAF)

## **Following an Invitation**

*My mentoring experience in Scripture engagement has been like receiving an invitation and responding with 'yes'. It started at the global Scripture Engagement meeting in 2011. Sabine Kalthoff and I had arrived early. She knocked at my door and invited me to come with her to the Orchids Gardens; I said yes to the invitation. She intentionally asked questions wanting to know more about me and my journey with Jesus and the Word. Looking back, that was a key moment. Since then, Sabine has made many invitations which have taken me out of my comfort zone and at the same time have helped me to grow. Even though our mentoring relationship has lots of challenges – differences in language, culture and geography – my experience is that our love for Jesus gives us common ground.*

*Sabine seems to see potential in me for growth. Since 2012, we've been in touch through skype calls, emails and meetings in person. This mentoring experience has grown in me a deeper and confident love for Scripture and joy in reading the Word, and has led to Scripture engagement becoming a focus of my ministry in Mexico. Out of a Scripture Engagement consultation that Sabine and I facilitated together in Nicaragua, opportunities grew for me to pass on a love and vision for God's Word in other Latin American countries.*

*Always say yes to invitations when it's about sharing your journey with Jesus and his Word! You will be blessed and will bless people in ways you never imagined.*

Ana Miriam Peralta, senior staff in COMPA Mexico

## **One Bible Study Multiplied into Many**

*As a student, I had the opportunity to join the "Bible Surgeons" in addition to our weekly FES fellowship meetings. This Bible study group met once a week and was facilitated by our staff worker, Annette Arulrajah. As a student, I mainly observed how Annette facilitated. This wasn't difficult because she would explain the reason behind why she did certain things, even if she had to repeat it weekly! In this way, we studied biblical books and at the same time learned to facilitate studies. As a young staff worker, I was again privileged to be part of a small group of five staff studying the Word together with Annette.*

*I discovered that engaging with the Word can be interesting, interactive and alive. I think the most valuable thing I learned is how to facilitate Bible studies in such a way that students learn how to study the Word for themselves and are enabled to facilitate their own Bible study groups. I have often seen students so moved by the Word that the door for deep conversations is opened and new steps of faith are taken. For me, it is always important to remember that when I mentor a student, I do not do so with my words, but with God's Word.*

*For the past 11 years, I have been facilitating Bible studies and training others to do so. I thank the Lord that because of this, many students have started new Bible studies themselves!*

Beatrice Leong, former staff worker FES Malaysia

## **Mentoring: Joyful Partnership in Ministry**

*Lindsay Olesberg saw teaching and leadership gifts in me when I was quite young and those gifts were really undeveloped. That was over 20 years ago, and now we work together in national Scripture engagement leadership. Lindsay kept an eye on me, even at a distance, as we lived in different parts of the country. Whenever we found ourselves in the same place, she would be eager to connect. She would ask about my life as well as my ministry, and we would always pray together. She encouraged me in my life with Jesus and in leading others to him in his Word. She invited me into new opportunities to study and teach Scripture, to partner with her in Scripture engagement leadership, and to learn from others in our IFES family as we have travelled together internationally and invited others to teach with us here. Whenever she saw me teach, she offered thoughtful feedback. Over the years, I have grown immensely as I have watched her lead and as we have led together and debriefed our leadership experiences. We have visited one another's homes and pray for each other's families. Lindsay has been my teacher, mentor, and friend, and it is a joy to partner with her in ministry.*

Elizabeth Walsh, senior staff InterVarsity USA

## **Journeying Together in Scripture Engagement**

*In July 2014, a group of 22 staff and student leaders from student movements in México, Central América and Panamá had a three day Scripture engagement consultation in Nicaragua. During that time, we discovered the important value of loving, studying, living out and sharing the Word.*

*After the consultation, some of us felt the need for company in order to give us courage and strength for our own growth in Scripture engagement. So we decided to be in touch and started having video calls. We have four calls each year and they have been a source of inspiration, dreams, exchange of ideas and also of rest and freshness. Around 8-10 people gather for each meeting.*

*In these video calls, each of us is able to share personally about the Bible passages that impacted us and the challenges we face in our lives. We also talk about our experiences with Scripture engagement in our student movements and the materials that we have developed. All of this has started us on a path of growth, a walk together – and that is a wonderful and great gift.*

Jhonny Corado, staff worker with GEU Guatemala



## **Barnabas: “Son of Encouragement”**

It is God’s work to bring growth in the lives of people. He is the one who walks with us every step of the journey. But on this journey, other people also invest in us, help us and walk with us. A beautiful example of this is Barnabas.

Here are some inspirational facets of his life for mentoring. As you go through this page, please also read the Scripture references.

### **Acts 4:36**

His real name was Joseph but the apostles call him Barnabas: “*the son of encouragement*”. Others were able to notice this character trait in him. By being an encourager, Barnabas is following the example of God who encourages people in difficult moments.

### **Acts 9:26-27**

During the persecution and after Saul’s conversion, Barnabas connects Saul with the Christian community. He knows about Saul’s past but trusts that God had brought real change.

### **Acts 11:19-24**

When more and more Gentiles start to believe, Barnabas is willing to travel to spend time with them. When he arrives, he sees the fruit of the gospel in the new believers. He does not primarily see problems and challenges, but the work of God in their lives. What a beautiful perspective on other people!

### **Acts 11:25-26**

Barnabas intentionally goes looking for Saul and invites him to share the ministry in Antioch. By calling Saul, Barnabas acknowledges that he needs help and takes the risk of someone else becoming more prominent than himself. This is what then happens.

### **Acts 15:36-40**

Barnabas is committed to give John Mark a second chance in spite of his failure - even though this means separation from Paul. This decision to invest in John Mark’s life bears fruit, as we can see when Paul later writes: “*Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry*” (2 Timothy 4:11)

Look at the life and ministry of Barnabas.

**Take a moment to stop and reflect on the following:**

- How does his example inspire you?
- What do you want to do in order to encourage others?
- How can you make space for others even if it means that they might become more prominent than yourself?
- Among the people you are walking alongside, who needs a second chance from you?

## Trails of Discovering “LIFE”

A pair of feet agreeing to walk together,  
Two stories unfolding for each other;  
Two souls ~ listening, discerning & pouring over,  
Unspoken hospitality & generosity toward the other.

Seasons come ~ watering our hearts, & seasons go,  
The Lord of the seasons inviting us to sojourn together;  
He yearns for us to see, He is authoring the chapters,  
Two hearts watching, making sense & journeying together.

The Word among us ~ lighting our way,  
The Word among us ~ food to keep us in His ways;  
The Word among us ~ lifting our eyes to see Him there,  
The Word among us ~ giving us an Emmaus-like care!

I never would have thought that I have journeyed far,  
But you walked the miles with me ~ lifting up my eyes;  
To see Him transforming my questions, my moments,  
Into the poignant masterpiece of His work in my life.

This has been a journey to remember,  
Trails of discovery without number;  
You & I accompanied by the Triune One,  
No longer the same, only richer & tougher!

~ A pilgrim's journey with “Mentor”

## REFLECTIONS FOR OUR JOURNEY

**If you have not yet done so while reading this resource, take some time to reflect on the following:**

- Who might be a person God is calling you to have such a mentoring journey with (either being mentored by someone; or mentoring someone else)?
- In what specific area in your life would you want to be mentored?
- What are the key elements you would like to cultivate in your mentoring relationship?
- How could you allow God and his Word to be part of the journey you embark on?
- Commit these things to God in prayer. Writing them down may be useful. Then, we can wonder at how he answers our prayers.