

Mentor Description

Mentoring is not about the mentor – it's about the mentee. In the past the spotlight was on the mentor's wisdom, talent and godly behavior rather than the ability to listen, understand and teach today's young woman. A mentor must listen to the mentee and to the Holy Spirit in order to facilitate the mentee's spiritual growth. Mentoring is not an opportunity to vent about today's culture or to mold young women in your image.

A mentor must first understand themselves. We are all unique with different experiences and personalities. There is no one perfect type of mentor. Authenticity, trustworthiness, and especially love for others are the key elements in a mentoring relationship. These qualities are more important to the mentee than what you may have in common. A mentor does not need to be a Bible scholar or have all the answers. Often, a mentor finds themselves learning and growing along with the mentee.

Mentors need to understand the culture and discern the implications for mentoring. This includes the ability to look beyond familiar borders and see the possibilities of the younger generation, so that the mentee feels understood and valued.

Mentor traits include:

- ❖ Loves for others
- ❖ Spiritually mature (grounded in the faith and life experience) but willing to learn from mentee as well
- ❖ Demonstrates a worthy life, a skill or credibility that young women admire
- ❖ Consistently displays fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)
- ❖ Biblically knowledgeable and able to share that knowledge
- ❖ Trustworthy, honest
- ❖ Good listener
- ❖ Available, flexible
- ❖ Patient
- ❖ Committed
- ❖ Open, transparent
- ❖ Encouraging

Ask yourself:

How is my walk with Christ? Am I growing and seeking more of him?

Do I have unresolved hurts or unforgiveness that may cloud my judgement or ability to truly listen?

Is my motivation more about telling young women what to do than helping them grow in Christ?

Am I comfortable with an authentic relationship with women of all walks of life?

Can I handle conversations that may be somewhat shocking?