

## THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM

Sermon: Mentorship and the Model of Jesus

Sermon 22.03.09 | Rachel Humphries

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**The Big Idea:** Mentoring is a great concept and is a great way of building a church, message, relationships, and more. But at the end of the day, the choice is ours personally as to what we will do about it. Just what that choice is and the foundational driving force for our actions will be the topic of our study today.

### **Group Discussion:**

- It's easy to talk about mentorship in glowing and endearing generalities. But let's make it real and personal.
  - **Questions:**
    - Who were the good mentors in your life? Why?
    - What common characteristics of your mentor figures are shared with others in the group?
- The *Oxford American Dictionary* defines:

<u>men•tor</u>	<u>dis•ci•ple</u>
(noun) – an <i>experienced</i> and trusted advisor	(noun) – a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosophy
(verb) – to advise or <i>train</i> (someone, esp. a younger colleague)	(verb) – guide (someone) in becoming a follower of Jesus or another leader

  - **Questions:**
    - What is the difference between mentorship and discipleship?

### **Teaching Principle:**

*(For small group leaders to expound upon as appropriate – depending on group's Biblical familiarity – in order to set the foundation for the week's Bible study.)*

- In and of ourselves, none of us possess traits and qualities worth replicating in others (Romans 3:21-26). Realistically, which among you would want a carbon copy of your life experience passed on to another person? But through our own discipleship with Jesus Christ, we gain traits and qualities by the working of the Holy Spirit, which others will see and be drawn towards (Galatians 5:16-26).
- **Statement for Discussion:**
  - The beauty of discipleship is this: through an active relationship with Jesus we are equipped to *train* others out of our transformed *experience*. Discipleship fuels Mentorship.
  - **Questions:**
    - What is your response to this principal statement? Do you agree/disagree?
    - Can we find evidence of this in the example of Jesus in His ministry?  
*(extra: Did Jesus model this Himself? Was He Himself a disciple? Of Whom?)  
(see John 5:16-30)*

## **Bible Study:**

- Discipleship is the enabling force that leads us to Mentorship. A relationship with Jesus (i.e. talking/praying *and* listening/reading His Word) must be the passionate goal of our discipleship.
- **Group Reads: Psalm 127:1-5**
  - o **Question:**
    - In the context of our discussion and the Big Idea theme of mentorship, what implications does this passage hold?
- **Group Reads: Matthew 7:24-29**
  - o **Question:**
    - How do Jesus' words here, echo those of Solomon in Psalms?
- **Questions for Reflection/Discussion:**
  - o What does it actually mean in *your* life for Jesus to build your "house?"
  - o How does that fit in with the idea of a relationship with Him?
  - o How should a disciple relationship with Jesus lead you to mentor relationships with other people? (see Matthew 28:19-20)
  - o What should we first "*do*" to begin building relationships with others?

**Conclusion to the Big Idea:** Mentoring and learning all come down to our choice to seek discipleship with Jesus and relationship with those He sends us to minister to (*love God; love people*). God has given us 'the Book' to know what He has to say to us about our lives and how to lead others. He's also modeled for us His plan through Jesus' ministry. And Jesus has promised to give us the resources we need through the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Last, but not the least, He has and will place the people around us that need our mentorship. The choice is still ours though. Unless we pro-actively choose to say yes to Jesus and the people He sends us to, it's all for nothing.

- **Challenge:** Seek first the Kingdom of God. Pro-actively seek a personal, transformative relationship with Jesus. Then turn around and point someone else to the same hope you've found.