



Other Mentors and Mentor Apprenticing

Leading a mentoring small group for the first time can be a little scary. It helps to remember that you are never really alone when you're being obedient to God's calling. He is with you and will never forsake you.

But it may feel like you're alone. We've found that it's really helpful to have another mentor (or two) who are mentoring at the same time. So if you can, try to entice one of your friends, another mature and godly woman who has a heart for younger women, and ask her to put a group together and mentor with you.

We've seen true community develop when mentors have met for breakfast once a month to share stories, get advice, and pray for their mentees together. These mentors' love for each other and for Christ has increased as they've shared the mission of mentoring together.

Apprenticing a future mentor can also be rewarding. All of your mentees are future mentors, but an apprentice should be someone who is very close to the age and stage of life when they could lead a mentoring group on their own. An apprentice should participate in the group *just like a mentee*. She should read the books, memorize the Scriptures, do the homework, and be accountable as the other mentees are accountable.

The mentor and apprentice need to spend some additional time together outside the session, preferably right after. The conversations from the session will be fresh and the two of you can share your insights and observations on how the women in the group are growing and responding within the group. Strategizing together gives the apprentice and the mentor insight about the women and how they can be loved, served and challenged to grow in their faith.

This consultation is probably the most valuable piece of apprenticing, both for the mentor and the apprentice. Having insight into the mentees and giving spiritual direction is paramount as a mentor.