

A MENTORING GUIDE

CHRIST • CONVERSATION • COMPANIONSHIP



DEVELOPED BY
THE VANTAGEPOINT3 TEAM

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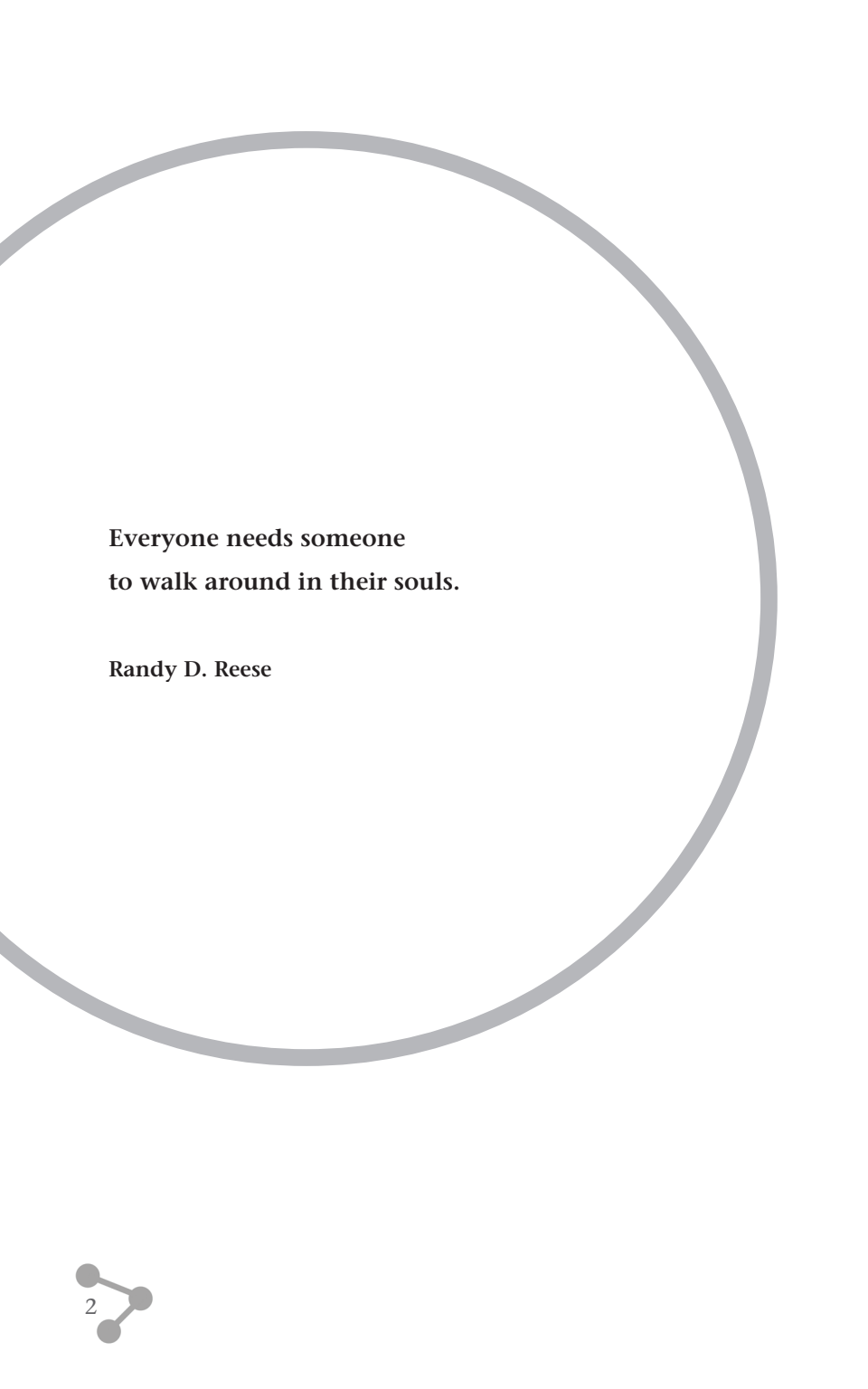
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INTRODUCTION



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**Everyone needs someone
to walk around in their souls.**

Randy D. Reese

AN INVITATION...

The gospel plays out best in relationships. We believe this is absolutely true. It is in close relationships with others where we begin to see how Christ is actually, specifically, beautifully active in the fabric of our everyday lives. In the sadness and celebration, the betrayal and forgiveness, the division and unity, in the beauty and the muddle of our lives, we discover together the Spirit's relentlessly creative activity.

A trusted set of relationships will be the place where we most often encounter Jesus' life-changing grace and truth. This is simply part of the mystery of how God's Spirit nourishes us as Christ's body. God's grace works *in us, with us, through us, and among us.*

This mentoring guide is an invitation to move closer to this truth and mystery personally. The trusted relationships we address throughout this guide all involve, at their simplest level, a companionship in which two or more persons intentionally come together to seek and respond to God's activity in their unique lives.

After much discussion, research, and some hand-wringing, we have settled on the word "mentor" as our primary umbrella term to describe a long list of possible relationship descriptors and experiences we are imagining a reader may be looking for here. Though not exhaustive, a few kinds of relationships include *spiritual friend, coach, discipler, spiritual director, soul companion, and accountability partner.*

We have also chosen to focus our examples on mentoring relationships between two people. However, we advocate for and encourage any reader to expand their imagination and application to group spiritual mentoring of two or three others, or a small group of adults interested in growing together. These small groups are dynamic places for all of the principles of mentoring to be exercised and for the Spirit's shaping work to flourish. For some of you who sit in facilitator chairs of adult small groups, it can be invigorating to consider that you are, in fact, offering a mentoring attention to the group as a whole.

If this mentoring guide rests in your hands, it is likely you fall into one of two groups. In the first group are those of you who have discovered being a mentor to others feels a bit like a calling that cannot be resisted. You do not have to be convinced of its value; you are deeply committed to mentoring in its many forms. You are always seeking to do this life-on-life work more in communion with God and you suspect this guide may help you do it a bit better. You may even be responsible for encouraging and equipping others to be a mentor.

The second group is a larger number of adults who do not think they have what it takes to mentor others well. This resource is written with you in mind. We hope to help you trust Jesus and yourself more, as well as help you navigate a mentoring role with greater confidence and discernment. We hope to encourage you to give of yourself in ways that will never be adequately measured, that will

often seem messy and unproductive, but will over time prove to be profoundly important in the life of another.

Jesus is always up to far more than we can possibly imagine. And he never leaves us with the heavy lifting in this sort of mentoring work. In his words, *Take my yoke and learn from me.... My yoke is easy and my burden is light* (Matthew 11:29-30). May you relax into this reality as you encourage others to be who God created them to be, men and women *created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life* (Ephesians 2:10). May you come to discover and trust the living Christ in your midst as you enter into this ministry of mentoring conversations along a morning walk or around a conference room table or over a good cup of coffee. *God is already up to something good...*