



A MENTORING ROUND TABLE

VP3 • ALBERTA
DISCUSSION

Our Purpose:

To cultivate conversation that both explores and seeks to recover a more relational way of life and ministry best modeled by Jesus.

Mentoring Defined:

A companionship in which two or more persons intentionally come together to seek and respond to God's activity in their unique lives.

What is a Round Table?

This format assumes that all voices are equal and curious. We will encourage you to contribute to what we call, "the answers being in the room." Listen well.

What to Expect:

You will be joining about 20 Christian leaders, many of who are friends of VantagePoint3. We will be moving back and forth between a large group and two guided conversations in smaller groups.

Our prayer:

Is that you will leave having been inspired and your imagination stretched by like-minded friends who yearn for this Jesus way of walking alongside others.

Mentoring Discoveries We Have Made:

-
-
-

Barriers to Mentoring:

-
-
-

Next Steps? Takeaways I want to remember:

BREAKOUT CONVERSATION #1

Taken from The Listening Life by Adam S. McHugh, pgs 203-204.

Our church signs layout the usual pattern. Come this Sunday for our message: "Where Is God When It Hurts?" This week's sermon: "Abraham and Isaac: The Untold Story." Sunday morning at 9 and 11: "Your One True Love." The expectation is clear: If you come to church, you are going to listen. The church's job is to preach, teach the Bible and share God's opinions on the issues of the day, and your job is to listen to our message. We have a pulpit, and you have ears.

Imagine if the pattern was reversed. What if, instead of coming to church to be preached to, people came to church to be heard? What if the body of believers was less known as a preaching community and more as a listening community? What if the church was a group of people where the power dynamics of speaking and listening were inverted? Imagine a society of reverse listening, where those who would normally expect to be heard, listen, and those who would normally expect to listen, are heard. I dream of a place where leaders listen to followers, adults listen to children, men listen to women, the majority listens to the minority, the rich listen to the poor, and insiders listen to outsiders.

If the church as the society of reverse listening could ever be realized, it would have to start with our leaders. When those on the top start to listen like those on the bottom, we're starting to live like Jesus. Sadly, for all our talk about servant leadership, I have not encountered many pastors and other Christian leaders who are devoted to listening. You don't get to be a celebrity pastor through listening, that's for certain. There is no money on the listening circuit. Too many of us seem to be in a hurry, and hurry and good listening are bitter enemies. Yet the first act of a servant leader is to listen, and the quality of listening in our churches will be largely determined by the level of commitment our leaders have to listening.

What in the world does this excerpt have to do with a mentoring way and leadership in such a time as this?

BREAKOUT CONVERSATION #2

What mental models, or hurdles, are getting in the way of adults personally seeking a mentor, being a mentor, or helping others do the same? (Perhaps consider those in the "third-third" of life, or millennials for more focus.)