



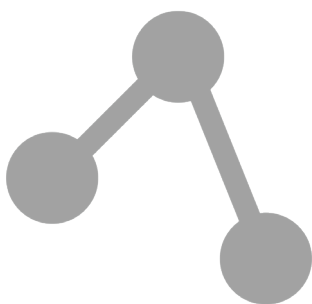
A MENTORING GUIDE

CHRIST • CONVERSATION • COMPANIONSHIP



A MENTORING GUIDE

CHRIST • CONVERSATION • COMPANIONSHIP



DEVELOPED BY
THE VantagePOINT3 TEAM

Copyright © 2019 by VantagePoint3
All Rights Reserved
Developed by the VantagePoint3 Team

No reproduction of any or all of *A Mentoring Guide: Christ, Conversation, Companionship* can be used without written consent of VantagePoint3. Please send inquiries to hello@vantagepoint3.org or to 2104 S. Summit Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

The Scripture quotations contained here in, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

VANTAGEPOINT³
2104 South Summit Avenue • Sioux Falls SD 57105
605-362-1165 • vantagepoint3.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
Part 1: A MENTORING WAY	7
Companionship.....	8
Three Essential Skills.....	10
Paying Attention.....	13
Three Big Questions.....	14
Mentoring is For Everyone	16
A Variety of Relationships	19
What Are Your Motivations?	22
Part 2: BEGINNINGS	25
I've Been Asked to Be a Mentor.....	26
Beginning Where People Are.....	28
Creating a Safe Place.....	30
W.A.I.T. Why Am I Talking?	33
Preparing For the First Meeting.....	35
Simple Meeting Formats	38
Part 3: MIDDLES.....	41
As Iron Sharpens Iron.....	42
Showing Up	44
Be Curious	46
Tell Me Your Story	48
Key Things to Listen For	50
Patience in the Muddle	53
Questions As You Get Going	54
Good Questions Over Time.....	57
Deeper Dive Questions	60

Part 4: CHALLENGES	63
This is Disappointing.....	65
Pitfalls in My Role as a Mentor	67
Holding the Long View	69
A Willingness to Be Vulnerable	70
Difficult Situations.....	71
Hearing Something Really Hard.....	73
An Honest Word Shared Well.....	76
When Do We Ask For Help?	78
Investing in Others.....	80
 Part 5: ENDINGS	 83
It's Not Going Well...Finding an Ending.....	84
Good Endings.....	86
Unexpected Endings.....	87
The Art of Giving a Blessing.....	89
Reflecting as a Way of Ending	91
 CONCLUSION	 93
Blessings on the Journey	94
For Further Reading	96
 SOURCES	 98

INTRODUCTION



CHRIST • CONVERSATION • COMPANIONSHIP

**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...*





EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE TO WALK AROUND IN THEIR SOUL. RANDY REESE, FOUNDER OF VANTAGEPOINT3

VANTAGEPOINT³ is a ministry that helps adults discover more deeply who God is, who they are, and what God wants to do through them. Our deep conviction is that God wants people to grow up into maturity in Christ. VP3 partners with church leaders, as well as men and women in the marketplace, seminaries, and home who are looking for a proven, integrated process, like VP3's *The Journey*, to help them deepen and develop adults in Jesus' name.

vantagepoint3.org

ISBN 978-0-9816287-4-5

90000>



9 780981 628745