

9: The 10,000 Ft. View

Kevin Swanson



- One of the things we're trying to do is to recover a biblical concept of _____ and _____.

There are many examples of this throughout Scripture. The first thing we should do is to turn to Scripture to find the Biblical and historical basis for what we're doing. The very best example of mentorship in the Scriptures is Jesus and His disciples.

Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach..."

Mark 3:14

- Three chapters later, in Mark 6, we find that Jesus sent his disciples out to _____ the things that they had learned, by teaching, casting out devils, and healing.

What About Parents?

Some parents are concerned that mentorship could displace parental-based, education-discipleship.

- It is true that those with preeminent involvement in the education of a young child must be the _____.

This is what we find in the book of Proverbs, Deut. 6:7, Eph. 6:4, 1 Thes. 2:11, and throughout the rest of Scripture. When it comes to the raising of a child into an adult, the parent is primarily responsible for that discipleship and mentorship. God designed it that way.

- We're not trying to _____ with that. We're not trying to contradict that.

When Jesus first appears in the gospels, we find James and John mending the nets of Zebedee their father, engaged in a parent-child relationship in their family economy.

- This is because the assumption was that young men and young women were _____ with their _____ as their parents raised their children in their homes.

SECTION 4: MECHANICS OF MENTORSHIP

However, Jesus found that these young men were ready for discipleship, so He stepped in and took these twelve young men for three years.

Inefficient but Powerful

- One of the first things we learn about mentorship is that it's very _____.
- However, it is _____.

Mentorship is influential. It had a tremendous influence on the twelve apostles who went out and eventually changed the world. It is important to remember that the pattern of mentorship brings about a huge impact in the long term, though it doesn't appear to be very useful in the short term.



Go Long Term

Because there are different patterns of mentorship that people have formulated, our goal is not to hold anyone down to one particular approach. One thing we do know, however, is that...

- _____ mentorship is important.

We find that the disciples were not always with Jesus. It's evident that He did not hold to a 7/24 mentorship schedule with His twelve disciples.

- The issue is _____.

The driving principle is to make it past that one-year mark to spend two to three years with the young men or young women who are being mentored.

Gender Appropriate

- _____ should mentor young women and _____ should mentor young men.

...the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children...

Titus 2:3-4

The reasons for this distinction are obvious. Not only is it biblical, it's also proprieties. It's the

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way we ought to be setting up our mentorships so that we avoid both the appearance of evil as well as the opportunity for sin.

We encourage young men to seek out godly, responsible men to be their mentors, as Jesus Christ was the mentor of His disciples. Similarly, there is the example of Elisha who was mentored by Elijah, and Paul who regarded Timothy as his son in the faith.

I believe it is important for this kind of mentorship to be happening within the Christian church, certainly, but it also in a variety of other contexts.

Over the course of seven years, I've invited many young men into my home. They have lived with us and eaten meals with us, and as a result, I have had the opportunity to learn a number of different things about mentorship over the years.

Lean into the Mentorship



- One of the things that you should pay attention to is developing the relationship, and proving yourself _____ as a mentee.

Mentoring Chad, by Kevin Swanson

"The first year of four years that I mentored Chad, he made a concerted effort to lean in. That is the most important thing that an apprentice does. He has to have enthusiasm. He has to be there, he has to be present, he has to be listening, he has to be focused, he has to be willing to pick up everything he can possibly pick up, whether it be the email responses, the phone calls, the interpersonal interactions, whatever it happens to be. Anyone who is being mentored should give every effort to be fully present by learning and absorbing as much of what is being taught as he possibly can."

Learn Their Methodology First

- You are not just learning the facts, but how the facts _____.

As an apprentice, you will be learning how your mentor interacts with people, manages his business, and how he does all that he does. Everyone has a different approach to how they do what they do, but the fact is that they have all learned effective ways to build their houses,

SECTION 4: MECHANICS OF MENTORSHIP

ministries, or businesses.

- You are learning a specific _____.

The idea is to copy the methodology of your mentor without being too creative with it. The goal is for you to learn the exact methodology that your mentor learned over many years. He is the master at his craft. It should not be until much later on, as you stand on his shoulders, that you can adapt some of the things you learned from him.

Mentoring Chad (cont.)

"Chad learned a great deal about how I interact with others. He learned how I deal with conflict. He learned how I make mistakes and how I recover from my mistakes. He learned how I interact with detractors—people who don't like the ministry work that I do. He learned something about my patience. He learned something about my impatience. He learned a huge amount about me. He learned an extremely practical form of knowledge that I hope he can apply to his own life."

Look for a Mentor of Integrity

- It is important to seek out a mentor who has a fairly high level of _____.
- We encourage you to find a _____, first and foremost.

The reason why it is important to find a Christian is because a Christian mentor will typically be more focused on your faith and character than a non-Christian mentor. A non-Christian probably hasn't read the book of Proverbs.

Get to Know Your Mentor

- Not every "Christian" with a _____ on his business card, has the _____ level of integrity.

Spending a little time with your mentor up front might be helpful. Spend a week or two, or maybe even two to three months, meeting with your potential mentor. The idea for this timeframe is that you would be getting to know him, and could opt out at any point, without going the distance of a true blue mentorship.

- You have to build _____ over a period of time.

As unfortunate as it is to have to mention, I must remind you that our world is filled with people who do immoral things. Put that up front. You should certainly involve your pastor, your

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elders, your parents, or any other counselors in your life, as you make decisions concerning mentorships. Draw your counselors into these critical decisions.

- The mentor that you choose really will have an _____ over your future life, so you must choose _____.

Character Traits You Need in a Mentorship

1. _____ above all things.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

2. _____ your _____ .

"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Ephesians 6:2-3

God has given each young person the parents that He has given in order to be wise counselors. Young people should be sure they are in good, solid communication with their parents, especially while beginning a mentorship relationship.

3. Keep accountable.

If your mentor is doing something illegal or immoral, you should have a discussion about that issue with your parents or other counselors.

- Remember, the goal in your mentorship is to first establish _____, and then to begin to receive godly counsel, wisdom, and character formation from your counselor or mentor.

Getting Through the First Year

The first year of mentorship should be merely a "get-to-know-you" period. There are many reasons for this, but a major one is that the mentor can often find it challenging to have the apprentice in his way. (As an apprentice, it is important to be careful not to get in the way!)

- Do what you can to be as _____ as you possibly can be in that relationship.

SECTION 4: MECHANICS OF MENTORSHIP

Mentoring Chad (cont.)

"My first mentee, Chad, was with me for four years. In the first year he didn't really contribute to the process as much as I would have liked him to, but he was there and he tried to be as helpful as he could possibly be. He didn't understand the system yet. However, by the second year, he began to understand the system, he began to understand how he could actually help more. He began to be effective, and he actually encouraged and contributed to the process. By the third year he became practically indispensable to my ministry and the work that I was doing.

I had him with me a great deal of the time. He was with me throughout my travelling. Over time, he began to understand everything I was doing. He understood my worldview. He understood the things I was teaching. He got to the point where he could practically finish my sentences because he had been with me for a period of three to four years.

This is the way that mentorship works. It's extremely effective. In the case of Chad, it prepared him for his own business and ministry work, both areas in which he is extremely effective to this day."

Assignments

Session Instructions

1. Watch the video for Session 9 and fill in all the workbook blanks (you may need to pause or rewind the video).
2. Read through the Self Evaluation and Life Application assignments below, then reread all of Session 9 with these in mind.
3. Complete the Self Evaluation and Life Application assignments below.

Self Evaluation

- 9.1 What is the single most important lesson you learned in this session, and how can you apply it to your life? What is the first step you need to take?
- 9.2 Kevin Swanson mentioned that some parents are concerned that a mentorship could

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supplant their role in the upbringing and launching of their child. This will not be the case unless the parents and child already have a less-than-ideal relationship. In that case, the mentor could very easily turn into a replacement parent. Evaluate your relationship with your parents by answering the following questions:

- How is your relationship with your parents on a scale of 1-10?
- What one thing or combination of things is a sensitive spot in your relationship?
- What needs to happen for that to be resolved?
- What is your responsibility before God to resolve it?
- Who could you ask to hold you accountable and to pray with you?

9.3 In your words, what does it mean to “lean in” to a mentoring relationship? What are some ways that you could “lean in” to your relationship with your parents?

Life Application

9.4 Follow through on your most important lesson and take the first step in applying it to your life.

9.5 Read Matthew 7:3-5. Accept responsibility before God for your part in the relationship tension with your parents. Repent of what you have done wrong.

9.6 Once you have gotten to a place of humility before God, talk over your struggles with your parents and seek to get them resolved. Stop leaning out, and start “leaning in” in the ways you outlined in 9.3.

(Note: It isn't your responsibility to fix your parents; that is God's job. Your job is to work with what He is trying to do, not against it.)

9.7 Biblically, what should you look for in a mentor? What kind of a man do you want to imitate? Look at Ex. 18:21, 1 Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:7-11, or other passages that come to your mind. Write up some basic mentor criteria.