



Duluth Seventh-day Adventist Church

Invest Young Mentorship Program

(A nine-month mentoring program)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Invest Young Mentorship program!

Economists say that you need to start investing when you're young in order to avoid financial hardships later in life. Truth is, while it is important that we encourage our kids to invest early for financial peace down the road, investing in our youth today, especially in the formative years of their life, is more important. And just as compounding interest will help to ensure that they have a comfortable nest-egg on retirement, the cumulative effects of nurturing and developing the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of our young people will give them a lifetime of happiness, peace, and joy with eternal satisfaction.

IT'S A CHOICE

We can choose to take a reactive approach— where we try to fix the problems with our youth as the come up, or we can take a proactive approach – where we invest in our young people now by getting to know them, showing an interest in them, and being positive Christian role models. The proactive approach clearly makes the best sense – for our children, our families, and the future of our church!

A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could. — Zig Ziglar

WHAT IS A MENTORSHIP?

Mentor-mentee relationships can be seen in various walks of life, including: in business, various community clubs, the military, and in academia. What they all have in common is a sincere desire of one to develop, support, and encourage another.

Examples of biblical mentorships are found throughout the entire Bible. Jethro mentored Moses, Eli mentored Samuel, Elijah mentored Elisha, Daniel mentored Nebuchadnezzar and the three young Hebrews, Mordecai mentored Esther, Priscilla and Aquila mentored Apollos, Paul mentored Timothy, Titus and many others, and Jesus mentored the 12 disciples. Whether the mentor was a counsellor or a teacher; a role model or spiritual guide, they each shared a unique bond and a meaningful relationship with their mentee.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. — Proverbs 9:9 (ESV)

THE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this program is to augment the work of parents and guardians in helping their child face the challenges of this world with confidence while preparing them for the world to come; teaching them to love the Lord, do His will, and to glorify Him.

We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. We want our children to believe the truth. We want them to be blessed of God. We want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth. Let all be so trained that they may rightly represent the truth, giving the reason of the hope that is within them, and honoring God in any branch of the work where they are qualified to labor. —Ellen G. White

CRITERION FOR BEING A MENTOR:

1. Must be amazed and thankful for God's grace and mercy in your life
2. Must have a deep abiding relationship with Jesus Christ
3. Must have a genuine desire to make a positive difference in the life of a young person
4. Must have a willingness to share your own life as a positive role model
5. Must be spiritual mature
6. Must complete the interactive, online training course through ***Shield the Vulnerable*** at <http://www.shieldthevulnerable.com/>

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. —1 Corinthians 11:1

GUIDELINES FOR MENTORS

While not every situation that may come up can be anticipated, building good trusting relationships take time, prayer, and much effort. At the very minimum, both the mentor and mentee should show respect and kindness toward one another and practice patience and flexibility. Overall, a Christ-like character should clearly be seen in every interaction. The following is a collection of do's and don'ts:

Do:

- Get to know your mentee. Remember, times have changed. The world is not the same as when you were their age.
- Be positive, patient, dependable, honest and sincere.
- Be consistent, but flexible. Expect changes in plans.
- Encourage, praise and compliment even the smallest of accomplishments and successes.
- Be an active listener giving undivided attention.

- Speak using words that are easy to be understood.
- Be straight, honest and sincere. Children pick up on falseness and shallowness quickly.
- Share your knowledge rather than just giving advice. Leave the sermonizing to the pastor.
- Be enthusiastic. It's as contagious as a smile.
- Stress the positive; minimize all forms of negativity.
- Help your mentee use mistakes and failures as learning experiences.
- Help your mentee identify their spiritual gifts, talents, and strengths.
- Share fun and interesting experiences about yourself, especially about when you were young.
- Plan activities in advance.
- Take the initiative to build the relationship.
- If you're going to miss a scheduled activity or visit, call the parents and leave a message for the mentee. It is important to let the mentee know you did not forget about them.
- Embrace cultural and ethnic differences.
- Be open to what your mentee can teach you.
- Model the character of Christ in what you say and do.
- Pray together.
- Decide with the parents or guardian how to handle confidential information your mentee shares with you.
- Do not keep secrets, but be trustworthy.
- **Honor Your Commitment – This is extremely important!**
- **HAVE FUN!**

Don't:

- Expect to have instant rapport with your mentee. It takes time to build trust.
- Lecture, demoralize or preach at mentee.
- Tell them what to do. Instead, you should suggest, invite, and encourage.
- Take your mentee for granted or assume they don't need positive reinforcement.
- Share personal problems. Maintain positive tone in meetings and communications.
- Use them as a sounding board for your own frustrations.
- Make promises you can't keep.
- Be convinced that what mentees say is always what they mean.
- Pry into the young person's life. If a mentee pries into your affairs, it is okay to say that some things in your life are private just as they are in his or her life.
- Be afraid to admit that you do not know an answer or that you have made a mistake. Find the correct answer and learn together.
- Interpret lack of enthusiasm as a personal rejection or reaction to you.
- Tease.
- Lend money.
- Violate confidences, with the single *exception of crisis intervention situations*, in which case you must contact the program coordinator, parent, or guardian privately and immediately.
- Take pictures of mentee without the permission of the mentee, parents, or guardians.
- Forget how you felt when you were young. What do you wish an adult had said to you during that time in your life?
- Attempt to become a surrogate parent to the child or undermine their parent's authority.
- End the relationship on a sour note.

GUIDELINES FOR MENTEES

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

-Proverbs 20:11

Do:

- Contact your mentor to set up your first meeting.
- Get to know your mentor. Don't be afraid to ask about their background and interests.
- Arrange contacts with your mentor through telephone, email, face-to-face, etc.
- Discuss with your mentor what you want from the mentoring relationship and communicate your goals to your mentor.
- Keep all scheduled appointments. If you need to cancel or reschedule, inform your parent or guardian and notify your mentor right away.
- Respect your mentor's time.
- Be open to what your mentor can teach you.
- Be flexible on meeting times, places, and activities.
- Be open to your mentor's feedback and advice.
- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Maintain confidentiality and trust.
- Use social media responsibly.
- Be courteous, kind, and respectful.
- **Honor Your Commitment – This is extremely important!**
- **HAVE FUN!**

Don't:

- Criticize or talk negatively about your mentor.
- Be sarcastic.
- Try to manipulate your mentor.
- Place your mentor over your parents or guardian.
- Cancel meetings and/or visits at the last minute.
- Expect gifts or money from your mentor.
- Commit yourself to an obligation you cannot keep.
- Complain about parents to your mentor.
- Take or post pictures of outings or of your mentor on social media without the approval of mentor and parents or guardian.
- Be dishonest.
- End the relationship on a sour note.

(Do's and don'ts adapted from various online mentorship programs).

EXPECTATIONS

During the nine-month mentorship program it is expected that you:

- Establish together the best method to communicate with each other (eg., email, phone call, in-person) and the best time of day.
- Have face to face meetings at least twice a month.
- Discuss with parents all plans and activities in advance.
- Attend mentorship group activities (which includes initial meet and greet activity and at least one social outing during the mentorship period).
- If unsure about an unexpected situation, contact the program coordinator for advice.
- Take time to pray together and for the program.

For more information, contact the program coordinator, Elder Mickey P. Evans, at mickeypevans@gmail.com, or 770-841-2131.