

Mentor Packet

Dear Mentor,

We are so excited you have chosen to be an example and spiritual leader in the life of an adolescent. Spiritually mature individuals are the link to help students navigate the pitfalls of junior high. You have a part in leading students to healthy interdependent relationships with others. Your responsibility as a mentor is to meet with the student at least seven times, completing an assignment each visit. We encourage you to space your meetings out over the next 2 years. In addition after your first visit the student will be reciting a passage of Scripture to you and discussing what it means. In your last visit, please review all the Scripture the student has memorized.

As a mentor, we ask the following:

- Do your best to arrange your schedule to meet with your mentoree.
- Take initiative with the meeting times. Take time to listen, openly share, and pray for him/her.
- Don't rush through the meetings to get the assignment done, rather be sensitive to how God is leading the time to specifically reveal things to you or the one you're mentoring.
- Don't be too preachy, yet don't be so passive where the majority of your time is spent in non-consequential conversation.
- Ask open questions that can lead to thoughtful discussions, explore trite answers for more depth.
- Follow up in between meetings with encouraging calls or notes.
- Be prepared for each meeting- review the assignments beforehand and make any necessary notes. We have included a document called "Mentor's Notes" to help you prepare.

I have enclosed all seven assignments for your review. The student will also receive the assignments. When you get together and work through them, make sure the student is filling out the sheet in their own words. Please sign at the bottom of the page; the student is responsible to turn it in. Each assignment is broken down with some verses and questions to explore on a range of topics.

The assignments are available to download on the web at www.orcuttyouth.com. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at 805-937-4974 or e-mail at shawn@orcutpres.org.

Sincerely,

Shawn O'Brien
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Letter to the Student

Hello Student,

Welcome to Jr. High! I am so excited you have chosen to brave new ground with us with so many new changes. We hope your experience will be an exciting and unforgettable time of growth. One of the requirements for “outside” is to meet with a mentor at least 8 times to complete 8 assignments.

A few reminders about your relationship with your mentor:

- Do your best to arrange your schedule to meet with your mentor.
- Be prepared for each meeting and take time to get to know him/her. They are taking time out of their life to pour into you so enjoy it.
- Don't rush through the meetings to get the assignment done, instead be sensitive to how God is leading the time to specifically reveal things to you.
- Stay focused on the subject and don't go off on random tangents. But if you want to discuss certain things at a deeper level- go for it. This time is meant to deepen your faith.
- Be sure and speak up if at any time you become uncomfortable with your mentor. If needed, let another adult know what you are feeling.
- Be sure and send a thank you note to your mentor after your last meeting.

The assignments are available to download on the web at www.orcuttyouth.com. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at 805-937-4974 or e-mail at shawn@orcutoff.org.

Christ be with you,

Shawn O'Brien
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Name _____ Date of Visit _____

#1: Case for Christ

During your first meeting, it would be good for both the mentor and mentoree to share their expectations for this experience.

We worked through *The Case for Christ – Student Edition* for the first 8 weeks of youth group. Some people think that Christianity is something that can only be believed if we turn off our logical, thinking mind, and retreat into a world of faith. But I, Shawn, believe the Bible and it's accounts can be trusted as a reliable source for the life and ministry of Jesus.

Ask your mentor if they have ever had a situation where they had to defend Christianity and the trustworthiness of the Bible.

Top Tough Questions

Answer the following questions based on what you learned in your growth group. If you do not remember how to respond to a certain question, read the pages in parentheses with your mentor. Write down your answer or response to each question or comment.

How do you know whoever wrote the Bible wasn't just making it up? (pp.55-57)

Because the Bible had to be hand-copied for so many centuries, the Bible we have today is no longer accurate or trustworthy. (pp.60-62)

What do I care about the Bible? What does it have to do with me? (pp.62-64)

Did Jesus really live, or is he a fictional character found only in the Bible? (p.67)

What archeological evidence is there that the Bible is true? (p.70)

The Bible is so old. Is there any evidence today that Christ is real? (pp.69-74)

Ask your mentor to share with you how they came to know and place their trust in Jesus.

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#2 Believe

There comes a time in every person's life when it is time to start becoming independent. Part of this growing process involves questioning what you have been taught. Yet to just question is not enough, answers must be sought out. One of the areas that many people need to sift through is their faith and relationship with God. Up to now, what you believe about God has come about because of what others have taught you. This lesson will help you explore who God is and begin building your faith on what you believe, not just what you have been told.

Discuss with your mentor what you believe about God and why.

Read Acts 17:24-26.

What did God make?

Discuss with your mentor what it means that God is Lord of heaven and earth. Write 2-3 sentences explaining this.

If God has no needs, why do you think that God created people?

Read Verse 27. What was God's purpose in all that He has done?

Jesus is God's Son (see Mark 1:1, 9:7). Read Hebrews 1:3. There are 5 things that this verse tells us about Jesus. Discuss these things with your mentor and then write what you have learned about Jesus.

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#3 Following

Most people believe that God exists. But is it enough to believe? When people came to Jesus in the Bible, he didn't just say believe, often He also gave a command like "Go and wash" (John 9:6), "Go and sin no more" (John 8:11), "Go to the priest and bring a gift" (Matthew 8:4). Twenty times in the Gospels Jesus tells others to "follow me." Part of faith is trusting Jesus enough to obey Him. So, what does it mean to follow Jesus?

Read Mark 12:29-34. What does it mean when it says "heart?" Discuss with your mentor what it means to love God with all your heart. Write it down.

What does it mean when it says "soul?" Discuss with your mentor what it means to love God with all your soul. Write it down.

What does it mean when it says "mind?" Discuss with your mentor what it means to love God with all your mind. Write it down.

What does it mean when it says "strength?" Discuss with your mentor what it means to love God with all your strength. Write it down.

Who is your neighbor?

Why is it that loving God and others the primary commands of Jesus? In other words, why is love an important part of following Jesus?

Read Luke 10:30-37. Mentor, retell the story in your own words, update the people that would be in the story (pastors, rock stars, celebrities, types of people you may know). Discuss practical ways that you can love others.

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#4 Integrity

As a follower of Christ, we want to always examine our hearts to see if we are living according to what we say. It's what I call "closing the gap" between our inward thoughts and outward actions. You don't want to live your life in such a way there is a huge gap between who you are at church and how you live the rest of the week.

Ask your mentor for their definition of integrity. Record their answer:

Explain integrity in your own words.

Look up Proverbs 11:3
What is honesty?

When is it hard to be honest?

What is treachery?

When are you most tempted to be treacherous?

In the New International Version of the Bible 2 Timothy 2:22 is translated: “Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

What would you say are the evil desires of youth?

What are you to do instead of pursuing the evil desires of youth?

What can you do to pursue faith, love, and peace?

Look up James 5:12

What does this verse have to do with integrity?

Read Titus 2:7

Why should you do good deeds?

Is there integrity in doing the right thing with the wrong attitude? Why or why not.

Discuss how your deeds and attitudes can be consistent. List two to three ways you can close the gap between what you say and how you live. (3-4 sentences)

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#5: God's Wisdom

Years ago I, Shawn, learned this lesson: “when you don’t know what God’s will is for your life, whatever you do, don’t become paralyzed.” You see, God’s will is for us always to live for him. But there are lots of choices that come our way and we wonder what God would have us to do. Our future feels uncertain and we long to know the answers. The only way we know the answers is to spend time with God, learning His heart and His wisdom.

Define wisdom.

What do you think a person with wisdom is like?

Look up Proverbs 2:2-7

What is the connection between the fear of the Lord and knowledge of God?

Where does wisdom come from?

Look up Proverbs 17:24

What does it mean that the “eyes wander to the end of the earth?”

Why would this not be considered wise?

Look up James 1:5-6

What should you do if you need wisdom?

Does God want you to ask Him for wisdom? Why do you think this (see the verse for the answer).

What is a doubting mind described as?

Talk about what this means with your mentor. Write 1-2 sentences explaining what this means after talking with your mentor.

Do you have something in your life that you need wisdom for? Write it down.

Take a moment right now with your mentor and pray. Ask God to give you wisdom for what you have written down.

Look up James 3:17-18

Using the words (adjectives) in this passage, write down what wisdom from God is like.

Does having wisdom sound like something good? Who do you know that shows this kind of wisdom in their life?

Consider for a moment that God wants to show you the path for your life; He wants to make known to you His wisdom for your life. Remember though that He will only light the path one step at a time so you must be patient and trust Him.

Ask your mentor to share about a time in their life where understanding God's wisdom was difficult and what they did to overcome this.

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#6: Be Holy

Throughout the Old Testament God is described as “holy.” In 1 Peter 1:15-16, God tells us to be holy because He is holy. The basic definition for holy is to be “set apart.” You are to be different from the world, not in a weird way, but in a way that influences people to know more about God and your faith.

There are two important truths to holiness. First, we are a holy people. The Bible says so in 1 Peter 2:9. That’s what we call *positional holiness*. God looks at us as holy people. When God looks at us He sees His Son Jesus Christ whom we believe in, this is how he can look at us in our imperfections and sin and say to Himself that we are holy. He sees the perfection of Christ living in us. Second, God tells us “You must be holy because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16) This is our own holiness called *personal holiness*. This holiness is expressed as we imitate Christ’s actions and heart. (Philippians 2:5)

Read Philippians 4:8

What are some ways you can think honorably?

What are some ways you can think purely?

What can you think of that is worthy of praise?

Read Colossians 3:12-15

What is humility?

Someone who has humility is humble. Can you think of anyone who is humble? Why would you say they are humble?

What is mercy?

Have you ever been treated with mercy? In what way and by whom?

What are two ways you can act with greater humility and mercy?

1.

2.

What are two ways you can act with more gentleness and kindness?

1.

2.

What is a way in which living a holy life might set you apart (make you seem different) from your friends or family?

Ask your mentor what they do to “practice holiness.”

Think about this lesson and about the thoughts and actions that go with holiness. What do you have in your life that is the opposite of holiness? For example, lusting after the opposite sex is the opposite of pure thoughts. Share these things with your mentor and talk about practical ways you can break the bad habits that are barriers to your own holiness.

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#7: Identity

The burning question on every teenager's mind is: Who am I? Trying to discover who you are while there are changes happening with friends, your body, family, and new knowledge can be very confusing. It can also lead to many feelings of loneliness because you feel no one understands who you are, including yourself. You might feel you have to work hard for people to accept and like you. For example, you may work to get good grades for your parents' approval. At times you are so concerned whether or not people accept you, you feel like your head might be ready to explode. But the more you understand what God thinks of you, the more you will feel accepted and you will understand yourself!

List your top three worries

1.

2.

3.

Read together Psalm 139 verses 1-5, 13-14, and 17 personalize it by substituting my, me, and I with your name. For example, Psalm 139:1- "Oh Lord, you have examined Shawn's heart and know everything about Shawn." Spend a few minutes discussing the significance of this passage. Write 2 things that really hit you with this.

1.

2.

Read Ephesians 1:5.

What did God do that Him great pleasure? (1-2 Sentences)

Read Ephesians 1:13.

What should your identity be? For example, my identity is not an athlete, honors student, or a good Christian. (1-2 Sentences)

Re-read Psalm 139:1-5 and read Ephesians 1:4-8. Look at your list of worries.

Do you think God knows about these worries? Do you think that he worries about them also? Should you worry about them? Explain (1-2 Sentences)

Write out a prayer thanking God for his work in your life. (4-5 Sentences)

Ask your mentor to share about the things they did for acceptance and at what age did they begin to discover who they were in Christ.

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#8: Hope

How can you have hope in a hopeless situation? The answer...you can't. The question assumes that there can be a situation that is hopeless. But I believe differently. But to say to you, Jesus is your hope without you understanding how, will not help you. So I invite you on a journey to explore what the Bible says about going through tough times. You might find it quite surprising.

What is a difficult thing you are experiencing in your life?

Read James 1:2-4.

Fill in the blank:

“Whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an _____ for _____.

According to James 1:3 and 4, why are hard times an opportunity for joy? (1-2 sentences)

Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-10.

Paul describes a thorn in his side. Some believe it was poor eyesight, or a friendship that turned bad, or enemies. It's unclear as to what the pain in his neck was. He prayed three times for God to take it away, but God did not take it away. He had a lesson to teach Paul. What was it? (1-2 Sentences)

What was Paul's final conclusion about his “weakness?”

Read Philippians 1:29.

What is one thing you can count on happening if you are a Christian? Paul calls suffering for Christ a “privilege.” Why do you think he considered it a privilege?

Read Romans 8:28.

What does God promise to do during the hard times? (1-2 Sentences)

How do you define “good?”

Ask your mentor what God defines as “good?” (Mentor, look up Psalm 1:1-2, 34:12-14, Titus 2:1-8, 1 Peter 3:8-9, 3 John 1:11)

Is there a difference between your definition of good and God’s definition? Talk about it with your mentor.

How do think God can use the difficulty you described earlier to help you grow in character?

It is very important to understand that the good God does in times that are difficult is making us stronger people. The good is that our hearts are being transformed, not so much that our bad times will get better. Ask your mentor to share a difficult time they encountered and how Christ helped them through it.

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