

Session 6 - Leading and Mentoring Others in Ministry - (2 Timothy 3:10–17)



Everyone has a mentor (or mentors) who made a difference in their life. The mentor could be a parent, teacher, neighbor, pastor, or even a friend. Mentoring is part of life and should be a crucial part of church life. So, what is a mentor and how does that person impact the life of another? Why is it crucial for the sake of God’s Kingdom?

Watch this YouTube Video as an introduction to Session 6 <https://youtu.be/000EfJe0Tdo>

Definition of a Mentor: A mentor is a trusted counselor or guide, typically an older and experienced person, who imparts valuable wisdom to someone younger. Mentoring involves a voluntary investment in others and is rooted in a trusting relationship with the other person. The New Testament reveals that the Apostle Paul mentored many individuals, with one being a young man named Timothy. Let’s study 2 Timothy 3:10-17 as it illustrates Paul’s study the passage by answer the following questions.

(For more details on Paul’s relationship with Timothy - read Acts 16:1-5; 1 & 2 Timothy)

The Role of a Mentor – 2 Timothy 3:10–13

“You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance”- Paul describes his direct and personal mentoring of Timothy through the years.

- How does Paul’s explanation illustrate the mentor’s role?
- Tell another person the impact that a mentor has had on your life.
- Is there someone you could serve by extending to them your friendship, experience, wisdom and Biblical understanding?
- What steps are needed to begin the mentoring (discipleship) process?

The Response of Those Being Mentored – 2 Timothy 3:14-15

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of,... Paul describes how Timothy has responded through the years. Timothy was a receptive, faithful, and hungry learner of God’s truth.

- What personal characteristics are needed for a person to be mentored by another?
- What is the goal of Christian discipleship? How does knowledge of the Scriptures from childhood impact our adult life?

The Importance of Scripture in Leadership Development – 2 Timothy 3:15- 17

“and how from infancy you have known....

Paul accepted the Old Testament as Holy Scripture. He also implies that the Apostle’s teaching, including his own letters, carried an authority given by the Lord (See 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 13:3; Galatians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 5:27). In 1 Peter 3:16, the Apostle Peter accepted Paul’s letters as Scripture and Paul often directs his letters to be read in Christian assemblies. In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul seems to imply that the Old Testament and his letters are part of this phrase “All Scripture.”

- What does this passage tell us about the origin of Holy Scripture?
- How does 2 Timothy 3:15-17 emphasize the important role that Scripture plays in the maturing of God’s people? How is Scripture “profitable” for God’s people?
- What are some practical ways you can use Scripture as you mentor others?

Why do Pastors and Church Leaders Need a Mentor?

1. A willingness to be mentored reflects an attitude of servant humility.
2. Leaders grow by learning from others.
3. Mentoring creates some level of accountability.
4. Some of the best leadership ideas come from two or more people together.
5. Mentoring offers great encouragement.

Further Study: Consider some of the many examples of mentors in Scripture.

Old Testament Examples

- Exodus 18; Numbers 11 – Jethro and Moses
- Judges 4:4-16 – Deborah and Barak
- Ruth 1- 4 – Naomi and Ruth
- 1 Samuel - chapters 1–3 – Eli and Samuel
- 1 Samuel 16; 19:18–24 – Samuel and David
- Esther - chapters 1-10 – Mordecai and Esther

New Testament Examples

- Acts 9:10–19: Ananias and Saul/Paul
- Acts 9:26–30; 11:22 –30: Barnabas and Saul/Paul
- Acts 15:36– 41: Barnabas and John Mark
- Acts 18:1-4 – Paul and Priscilla and Aquilla (both ways).
- Acts 18:1- 2; 18–19; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:3-5: Priscilla and Aquilla in Corinth, Ephesus, Rome.
- Acts 18:24–28 – Priscilla and Aquilla with Apollos – Achaia Churches
- 2 Timothy 2:2 – Timothy with faithful men and others – Ephesian Church
- Titus 1:5 – Paul and Titus – Church on the Isle of Crete.

Did you notice that leaders work with other people to do the work of the gospel? Why do you think a “team approach to ministry” is important for your church situation? Identify several individuals that you can serve with to make a difference in your local area. Begin to study Scripture together and pray for God’s leading in serving together as a team.