

Mentoring Young People

Making mentoring a reality in your congregation

In recent years there has been growing interest in mentoring for young people in churches but often the biggest hurdle is knowing where to start. This short film is introduced by PCI Discipleship Development Officer, Rick Hill, who explains why mentoring is important and gives some simple ideas of how to start. This is supported by personal stories from Johnny Bell, youth worker at Saintfield Road Presbyterian, and from Debbie, Bethany and Chloe who are involved in mentoring there.

This film can be used in a variety of ways, for example:

- for personal information
- in a Kirk Session meeting to help inform a discussion about potential mentoring
- with a group of potential mentors

If you are using this in a group setting, you might find some of these questions useful to facilitate discussion

Discussion with elders:

- Who were the most influential people in your spiritual development as a young Christian? How did they go about making an impact on you and what difference did they make?
- What have been your impressions of mentoring as you have heard others talk about it? *(You may find suspicion, caution, apathy, personal positive experience)*
- Have you mentored or been mentored? What were the pros and cons of that experience?
- What do you think are the biggest obstacles or objections to mentoring? How can you overcome these? *(child protection concerns, misinterpretation, accused of favouritism, feeling inadequate)*
- How might the stories in the video help to overcome some of these obstacles?
- What might be the value and benefit of mentoring to your congregation?
- What might be the first steps and ways forward?
- How could you implement Rick's structure of: Identify – Invite – Resource – Routine
- *"You just don't know the power of the connections you are making"*; what is the potential in your church?

Discussion with potential mentors:

- Who were the most influential people in your spiritual development as a young Christian? How did they go about making an impact on you and what difference did they make?
- What excites you about the potential to be mentor?
- What are your biggest concerns or fears?
- What encouraged you from the stories in the film?
- What would you need if you were to be a mentor in this congregation?
- What routine might work to enable you to mentor a young person regularly?
- *"You just don't know the power of the connections you are making"*; what is the potential in your church?

Resources

The resources mentioned in the video include the following:

- Pray 21: www.ucb.co.uk/pray21 <http://timothyeldred.com/pray21>
- Exodus mentoring resources: <http://www.exodusonline.org.uk/mentoring-resources>
- Francis Chan "Multiply": <http://multiplymovement.com>

Mentors working with under 18s are subject to child protection guidelines – information from Take Care here: www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/Child-Protection/Access-NI-and-Garda-Vetting-Forms.aspx

Credits

Many thanks to Rick Hill, Johnny Bell, and especially to Chloe, Bethany and Debbie for sharing their stories.