

A photograph of a rustic wooden boardwalk bridge crossing a rocky stream in a lush forest. The bridge is made of weathered wooden planks and has a simple railing made of logs. The surrounding forest is dense with green trees and foliage, and the stream is filled with rocks. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

WHY WE BELIEVE IN MENTORING

**You Can
Mentor.**

We are who we are because of those who have invested in our lives.

- A mentor teaches you how to become.
- To believe.
- To dream.
- To see your own inherent value.
- To be loved for who you are, not just what you do.

Mentors make you family, because it's easier to believe you are someone, when you're someones.

- Who taught you how to trust others?
- How to make coffee?
- How to shake a hand?
- Who showed you how to have a meaningful conversation?
- How to fail and get up again?
- How to seek after God?

A mentor's truest gifts will never depreciate. They will grow in value over time.

A mentor carries what some would say is the greatest responsibility one can choose to take on in life. A mentor's job is to invest in the thing that is most precious to God: people.

There is no greater investment in life than the one you can make in the people around you.

Look around you. Have you ever considered yourself as a mentor? Do you have what it takes?

Our job is to prove to you that you do. You can mentor.
You were made for this. You want to know why?
Because you were made in God's image.

There is something holy about you

There's something about you that can't be removed from Him. His character and nature are imprinted within you. The truest thing about you is wrapped up in Him. You can't shake it: there is something holy about you. (even if you don't act like it or believe it yet).

God is love. He speaks and things are made. And the things He makes make as well. God's intent in creation is generational and ecological in nature. Everyone affects and is affected by the things surrounding them. We are changed by the things that came before us, and we will change the things that come after us.

We chose another mentor

This is where God and His creation became divided. Where God caused life and flourishing, man chose another mentor. We gave another voice our ear. A voice intent on death entering into our lives and minds and bloodlines. This voice led us into sin.

And since then, sin has been passed from generation to generation. We take what we're given and gift it to others in our words, our minds, and actions.

Sin comes for the truest thing about us. It is a cancer that seeks to blot out our identity as God's image-bearers. Sin tells us we're not enough and not lovable. Sin tells us they are not enough and they aren't loveable. Sin tells us God is not enough and that God is not love.



**You Can
Mentor.**

This is where Jesus comes into the story

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus say, “I’ll show you what sin never could. I’ll show you what you were always made for.”

And the first way He does this is through how He enters our story. He was born out of wedlock, in a barn.

His first days in this world were marked by being held in the arms of an adoptive father fleeing genocide as a refugee in a foreign land.

His father taught him craftsmanship. Can you imagine teaching God a craft?

And then, after living thirty years in seeming obscurity, Jesus begins His ministry.

And what did He do for three years?

The God of the Universe mentored 12 kids.

He washed their feet.

He taught them how to pray and how to be nice to other kids.

He taught them how to see the overlooked and care for the hurting.

He taught them about His Father and the Kingdom of God.

He told them childish stories they would always remember.

He demonstrated the Father’s love and power.

He stuck with them when they failed or feared.

He taught them how to see beyond the bias of appearances.



**You Can
Mentor.**

He helped them settle their differences.
He led the way and called them into leadership.
He made promises and kept them.
He gave them things they could always give away.
He saw in them what the world could never see.
He gave them an example of what it means to be truly loved.
He laid His life down for them, so they would in return do the same.
He came in unlikely way - with humility - and lived in unlikely ways
He lived in humility.
He invested His life in a few younger guys.
He showed them how to live and how to die to self.

Jesus is our model. The greatest example of a mentor. We have the privilege to view His life from this perspective. He became flesh and reminded us just how holy we are in God's eyes.

Jesus changed the world through mentoring.

Why? Why did Jesus do this? Why was this God's master plan?

There was a moment right before Jesus started His ministry. He was in line to be baptized by John the Baptist. John refused, but Jesus insisted. And then something startling happened. A booming voice from heaven descended over the crowd.

“This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased.”

Can you imagine real quick what this must have meant for Jesus? For the people who heard the voice of God?

Jesus had become like us in every way. He had not only cared for the poor, the hurting, the outcasts, the sinners...He identified with them.

“This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased.”

At that point, when the Father spoke identity over Jesus within the crowd, all of heaven broke loose. Following this baptism moment, Jesus began His three year journey to the cross. In love, with authority and supernatural power, Jesus lived like none had seen before in all of history. There was no sin in Him.

Do you see what’s happening here?

Jesus was released to make public the truest part of His identity, the part of Him we rarely focus on.

He is loved by His Father.

Jesus didn’t forget or need a reminder. I’m sure He appreciated it. Who doesn’t like when those that love us tell us? But I think something else is going on here: I think God wanted us to see it. To realize that everything that comes next flows from here. This is a foundational principle of the Kingdom of God: the greatest source of identity Jesus had was being loved by His Father. Because of this great love, Jesus freely loved and changed the world through mentoring.



**You Can
Mentor.**

Where does this leave us?

You have God's image within you.

It's who you are.

Look within you. You were made for this.

You are fully loved.

God saw fit to die for you to let you know.

His cross and blood speak a better word over you.

Forgiveness and sonship are yours.

And from that place of being loved, You have Jesus' example to follow.

He said to His disciples, "Freely, you have received. Freely give."

He said to His disciples, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."

- You can mentor because in Jesus you have received grace upon grace, the forgiveness of sin.
- You can mentor because you bear His image and you are beginning to believe it again.
- You can mentor because you are empowered by the Holy Spirit to make disciples.
- You can mentor because when you see the need, He fills you with compassion for others.



**You Can
Mentor.**

Look around.

Open your eyes as you drive home from work. Pay attention at the Football game Friday. Many children in today's world have a void of healthy, godly, and committed relationships with adults. They have no mentors.

For some kids, rather than having adults go out of their way for them, they have instead seen adults go away because of them. Going away and leaving no directions to follow.

There are boys and girls in your community with little to no example showing them the way to become the men and women they were made to be. Because kids who have grown up in hard places tend to lose the truest part of their identity: that they are loved by the Father.

You cannot love unless you're loved.

But instead of love, sin has been the most prominent inheritance (or debt) passed down for generations in our cities, preying upon the next generation because they have the most potential among us.

Here's where you come into the story

God can transform a child's story simply by leading men and women in our community (like you) to believe they are fully loved. If you catch a revelation of the love of God, you can mentor. God can do great things through people who know they're loved.

He loves you and has freed you up, for eternity, to love others in the same way.

This is what You Can Mentor is all about.