Mentor Experience Guide

Creating relationship through intentional conversation

Written and compiled by:
Ginghamsburg Church Women’s Ministry Core Team
Permission Statement

All material must be used in its entirety as a teaching course rather than split into parts. Please contact Ginghamsburg Church for permission to utilize course materials. This edition was revised January 2018.

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Dear Friend,

We are very excited to have you as a part of the Mentor Experience!

There is so much to look forward to as you take time for one-on-one fellowship with another woman. As the relationship develops, we are confident you will both see your faith grow and community build.

We believe that your willingness to join us on this journey is a direct result of a nudging from the Holy Spirit. We understand that nudge can trigger feelings of uncertainty; however, so please know that you are not in this alone! As a team, we will be walking beside you and doing all we can to make this a successful experience for you. This training and guidebook have been designed to address any fears you may have, give you the tools and resources you may need and provide you with support along the way.

We hope you are as excited as we are about the possibilities for the Mentoring Experience. We trust the Holy Spirit’s guidance and we are praying for you and all who join us!

Sisters in Christ,

The Ginghamsburg Women’s Ministry Team
How To Use Material For Each Meet-up Session

Meet-Up Sections Include:
- Meet Up Guides
- Optional Topic Tools
- Activities

The stated purpose for the Mentoring Experience is to create relationships through intentional conversation. Our desire is for you to build a personal relationship with your mentoring partner. We also want your time together to have some focus to help you both grow and to make the most of your time together. Each section of the guidebook has been put together to assist you with that goal.

Each meet up will have a topical focus. The topics have been prayerfully chosen to allow you to learn more about each other, strengthen all your relationships, develop mind-body-spirit and build your faith. We’ve put together discussion questions that will get the conversation started each week and provided you with additional resources and activities for study, if you desire.

Please be aware that we do not expect you to cover every question and all the provided resources each week.

We realize that there are different learning and relating styles. Some of us learn best through reading, watching videos or doing studies, and it all overwhelms others of us. This guide has been put together with all of that in mind. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you will decide what works best for you and your mentoring partner.

When looking through the topic material for each meet-up, use what you like and have time for, refer to it if either of you have additional questions or simply use a few of the discussion questions as you ponder each week’s topic during your meet up.

*Enjoy and be blessed!*

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Ginghamsburg Women’s Ministry
ME: Mentor Experience Covenant
2 Tim 1:7-8

1. I affirm my mission and commitment to Ginghamsburg Church and the body of Christ in service and in faith.
2. I understand that in mentoring relationships others will be watching my life and I will endeavor to live a God honoring life.
3. I will attend all scheduled meet-ups for the official ME time and be considerate of my partner’s time by effectively communicating with them in a timely manner.
4. I commit to pray for all participating in ME, but particularly my partner.
5. I understand that mentoring is about transparency and therefore I commit to being transparent and sensitive to the needs and life of my partner.
6. I understand that mentoring is more about listening than talking, but when necessary I will offer scripture-based advice.
7. I’ve considered family and work commitments and believe that I have time and energy for ME.
8. I agree that all discussions will remain confidential unless there is an ethical obligation to divulge information for the safety of others.

In partnership with the women of Ginghamsburg Church, in an attempt to develop relationship and personal growth, I affirm my understanding of these covenant commitments.

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Signature                                                                                               Signature

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Print                                                                                                   Print
Training Class Sessions

Fears

What is mentoring?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Why do we need mentoring in our community at this time?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What fears are you currently dealing with related to the idea of mentoring?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What fears might others be feeling as mentors or participants?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Who has been a mentor in your life? (Family, work, education, friends, etc.)

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________


Faith

The four requirements for being a mentor:

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________
4. ____________________________

Why might you need support systems and where can you find them?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What is your biggest takeaway so far?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What do you need to ponder and pray about regarding mentoring?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Tools

What kind of things can you do to facilitate active conversations in a relaxed environment?

Toolbox Resources:

- Mentor Experience Guides with eight topics
- List of church connections in the resource guide
- Dallas Theological Seminary - Seven Great Mentoring Reminders
- Biblegateway.com for multiple translations, commentaries, topical references
- The Internet. Although face-to-face interaction is best; video chats can be a substitute.

Reminder to be flexible in your conversations and let the ______________ be your guide, but this in not ________________.

Conversation Guidelines:
1. Watch out for red herrings.
2. Stay away from hot topics: politics, controversial current topics.
3. Don’t be backed into an either/or corner.
4. For a non-stop talker interrupt when they breathe.
5. Be intentional with the conversation.
6. Listen twice as much as you speak.
7. Speak truth even when it’s hard.
8. Use questions not statements.

Relationship Rules:
1. Confidentiality is key.
2. Don’t cancel meet-ups unless it’s an _____________________.
3. Keep your primary relationships _____________________.
4. Recognize that conflict is _____________________. Don’t fear it, but don’t ignore it.
5. Relationships/Mentoring is a two-way street.
6. The only person you can change is _____, so don’t try to change them.
7. Be your real self and you’ll grow too!

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Testimony

Story is a great way to ________________ connect in relationships because we can see ourselves in each other. Not everyone feels like their story is significant, but that’s ___________________.

One-word testimony work with a one-minute testimony.

What characteristics do you want to have and how has God worked in that area? For example, purpose, faith, truth, peace, etc.

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Before: Did I have purpose?
Did I have peace?

After: God gives me purpose.
God brought me peace.

Draft your one-minute speed testimony.
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

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Mentors

What is your idea of mentorship now?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Consider Biblical examples of mentoring:

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Mentoring is not ________________. Avoid co-dependent behaviors.

Why are there eight topics?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What is the significance of eight meet-ups?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Review course meet-up topics and information.

Should I stick to the topics for the week?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Do you have to do everything in the meet-up guides?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Mission

How are pairings decided?

How do you prepare for a meet-up?
1. Review topic.
2. Pray for guidance.
3. Consider relational goals.
4. Plan starting point questions.
5. Plan on time to wrap-up.

Special notes for the first meet-ups:
1. Review and sign covenant.
2. Discuss expectations.
3. Schedule all meet-ups for a regular recurring time.

Special commitment dates for the upcoming course session:

Are there make-up weeks?

What do I do when I have a problem, concern or unusual circumstance?

What was most significant to you in these sessions? What is your response to these sessions?
Ministry Contacts

Any time you feel uncomfortable with the information you have received or a conversation you have had please contact whichever resource below you believe can best help.

1. **Women's Ministry** for basic questions and information
   womensministry@ginghamsburg.org

2. **Care Pastors** for grief or prayer needs
   prayer@ginghamsburg.org
   Pastor Mike Martin - 937.667.1069 ext. 227
   Crisis Care Line - 937.280-6484

3. **New Creation Counseling Center** for professional help
   937.667.4678

4. **New Path** for assistance with food, home items or medical equipment
   Tipp City Food Pantry - 937.669.1213
   Anna's Closet - 937.875.2909
   The Gleaning Place - 937.522.5477
   GIVE Medical Ministry - 937.473.5195
   Newpath@ginghamsburg.org

5. **Ginghamsburg Church** for ways to get connected
   Sarah Hardin – 937.667.1069 ext. 327 or shardin@ginghamsburg.org
Mentor Resources
(COMPLETE QUICK GUIDE)

POWERFUL PRAYER
• Book: *Before Amen* by Max Lucado
• Video: *Praying with Jesus* with James Banks (Right Now Media)
• Web Article: desiringgod.org/articles/prayer-for-beginners

READING THE BIBLE
• Book: *How to Study Your Bible* by Kay Arthur
• Video: *Puzzled By the Bible* with Lisa Laizure (Right Now Media)
• Web Article: biblestudytools.com/bible-study/tips/3-simple-steps-for-studying-the-bible.html

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES
• Books: *Celebration of Disciplines* by Richard Foster
*The Life You’ve Always Wanted* by John Ortberg
• Videos: *Spiritual Disciplines* (parts 1,2 & 3)
  Joey Davis of Clear Creek Church of Christ
  youtu.be/T68kHVah6w0
  youtu.be/lNe3qiG_dF0
  youtu.be/GwYA52pWqz0
• Website: bible.org/illustration/spiritual-disciplines

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER
• Book: *Building Successful Relationships*, Michael Fletcher
  (There is also a Right Now Media video)
• Video: *Five Lies That Ruin Relationships*, Chip Ingram (Right Now Media)
• Web Article: healthyplace.com/relationships/healthy-relationships/tips-on-how-to-have-healthy-relationships/

PHYSICAL HEALTH
• Book: *The Daniel Plan 40 Days to a Healthier Life* by Rick Warren
• Video: *The 90 Day Fitness Challenge with Phil & Amy Parham* (Right Now Media)
• Web Article: archives.relevantmagazine.com/god/practical-faith/physical-health-spiritual-issue
Purposeful Gifts

- Book:  *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren
  *Strengths Finder* by The Gallup Poll
- Video:  Stormin O’Martian *You Are Unique*
  rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98246
- Web Article: lifeway.com/Article/How-to-Write-Your-Own-Personal-Mission-Statement

Commitment to Jesus & Testimony

Books:  *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp
        *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom

Movie:  *Heaven is For Real* (2014)

Web Article: christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/december/how-i-know-my-testimony-is-real.html
Meet Up One: Getting to Know You

**Past:** Where were you raised? What kind of family did you grow up in? When did you become a Jesus follower?

**Present:** What brings you to the mentoring relationship? What is your profession? What is your family life like today?

**Future:** What do you hope to learn from this experience? What is one long-term discipline you hope to have grown in within the next five years?

- Pray together for this new relationship.
- Set ONE focal point for the upcoming week. Focus only on each “today.”
- Commit to pray daily about: ________________________________.
- Meditate on Philippians 3:5-17.
- Confirm next meeting details: ________________________________.

### Meet Up One: Options

- Practice your focal point activity daily.
- Journal your personal reflections on this experience.
  - After meeting, what is your greatest connection point with each other?
  - What are your fears now?
- Meditate on a Bible verse that addresses your fears.
Meet Up Two: Powerful Prayer

**Past:** How have you prayed in the past? Who taught you to pray?

**Present:** How often do you pray and what prayer style do you use?

**Future:** How would you like your prayer life to change? Why?

- Pray together for this new relationship.
- Set ONE focal point for the upcoming week.
- Commit to pray daily about: ________________________________.
- Meditate on John 17.
- Confirm next meeting details: ________________________________.
Meet Up Two: Options

• Practice your goal activity daily.
• Journal your personal reflections on this experience.
  ○ How has this model enhanced your prayer this week?
  ○ Do you feel that your prayers were more in-line with the Holy Spirit this week? How so?
  ○ How have you struggled with this model?

• Ponder: According to Oswald Chambers in My Utmost For His Highest, “Prayer is not a normal part of the life of the natural man. We hear it said that a person’s life will suffer if he doesn’t pray, but I question that. What will suffer is the life of the Son of God in him, which is nourished not by food, but by prayer. When a person is born again from above, the life of the Son of God is born in him, and he can either starve or nourish that life. Prayer is the way that the life of God in us is nourished. Our common ideas regarding prayer are not found in the New Testament. We look upon prayer simply as a means of getting things for ourselves, but the biblical purpose of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.”

• Scripture: John 17
• Tool: For a balanced prayer life consider the ACTS prayer model.
  ○ **Adoration**: Acknowledge God’s character and glory as seen in the beginning of Jesus’ prayer in John.
  ○ **Confession**: Confess your sins and obstacles that are affecting you as seen at the end of chapter 17 when Jesus confesses for humanity. He doesn’t confess because he was without sin.
  ○ **Thanksgiving**: Lift up praises for God’s work in your life and answers to prayer.
  ○ **Supplication**: This is where we ask for guidance and wisdom in handling life’s circumstances for others and ourselves. Requests are only one fourth of a healthy prayer life.

• Mentor Resources:
  ○ Book: *Before Amen* by Max Lucado
  ○ Video: *Praying with Jesus* with James Banks (Right Now Media)
Meet Up Three: Reading the Bible

**Past:** On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) how biblically knowledgeable would you rate yourself? Why? What did you learn about the Bible growing up?

**Present:** Do you currently study the Bible? Why or why not? What is the difference/benefits/pitfalls of studying Bible verses, devotionals or Christian books and commentaries?

**Future:** What study behaviors could you change to have a healthier understanding of God’s word? What areas of the Bible could you focus on for a better holistic Bible knowledge base?

- Pray together using the ACTS model.
- Commit to pray daily about: ________________________________.
- Confirm next meeting details: ________________________________.
Meet Up Three: Options

• Practice your goal activity.
• Journal your personal reflections on this experience.
  o How has reflection on the importance of reading the Bible assisted you this week?
  o How did practicing a new skill in Bible study impact your week and your understanding of God?
  o What are your thoughts on scripture memorization?

• Purpose: Oswald Chambers wrote, “The Bible does not thrill; the Bible nourishes. Give time to the reading of the Bible and the recreating effect is as real as that of fresh air physically." A.W. Tozer adds to this idea with his writings, “The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.”

• Scripture:
  “My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words.
  Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;
  for they are life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body.
  Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it (Proverbs 4:20-23, NIV).
  “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

• Mentor Resources:
  o Book: How to Study Your Bible by Kay Arthur
  o Video: Puzzled By the Bible with Lisa Laizure (Right Now Media)
  o Website: biblestudytools.com/bible-study/tips/3-simple-steps-for-studying-the-bible.html
Meet Up Four: Christian Practices

**Past:** On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) how spiritually healthy would you rate yourself? Why?

**Present:** What faith practices do you currently participate in? How do they help you?

**Future:** Which ones would you like to refresh or expand upon? Why?

- Pray together using the ACTS model.
- Commit to pray daily about: ________________________________.
- Meditate on 2 Timothy 1:6-14.
- Confirm next meeting details: ________________________________.
Disciplines of Personal Development
(Inward)

- Prayer – communicating with God (Matt. 6:9)
- Meditation – focusing on God and his will (Phil. 4:8)
- Fasting – a reminder of the source of all nourishment (Luke 5:35)
- Study – careful attention the reality that God reveals to us, especially through Holy Scripture (Luke 2:46)

Disciplines of Service to the Body of Christ
(Outward)

- Simplicity – seeking God’s Kingdom first (Matt. 6:33)
- Submission – placing God’s will above one’s own (Luke 22:42)
- Solitude – withdrawing from the world to spend time with God (Matt. 14:23)
- Service – supportive action toward others (Mark 10:45)

Disciplines of Service with the Body of Christ
(Corporate)

- Confession – acknowledging one’s sin with and to others in the community of faith (James 5:16)
- Guidance – giving and receiving direction from others along the journey with Jesus (Acts 15:8)
- Celebration – taking joy is what God has done (1 Cor. 5:8)
- Worship – giving God glory through attitudes and actions (1 Cor. 14:26)

bible.org/illustration/spiritual-disciplines
Meet Up Four: Options

• Practice your goal activity.

• Journal your personal reflections on this experience.
  o How has reflection on Spiritual Health assisted you this week?
  o How do you think a new practice would impact your future? And which practice would you begin with?
  o What joys or struggles did you experience this week?

• Purpose: According to the medical section of TheFreeDictionary.com, “Spiritual health is important because of the increasing globalization and interconnectedness of today's world; it is defined as seeing oneself as part of a greater whole—having a higher purpose and grasp of the global and interconnectedness of today's world.”

• Tool: Richard Foster’s 12 Spiritual Disciplines

• Mentor Resources:
  o Books: Celebration of Disciplines by Richard Foster
            The Life You’ve Always Wanted by John Ortberg
  o Videos: Spiritual Disciplines (parts 1,2 & 3) Joey Davis of Clear Creek Church of Christ
            ▪ youtu.be/T68kHVah6w0
            ▪ youtu.be/INe3QiG_dF0
            ▪ youtu.be/GwYA52pWqz0
  o Website: bible.org/illustration/spiritual-disciplines
Meet Up Five: Relationships Matter

**Past:** On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) how relationally healthy would you rate yourself? Why? What was the relational climate like in your home growing up?

**Present:** What is the relational climate like with your family and friends today? For example, do you feel loved and do you believe others feel loved by you? Do you actively participate in the practices of forgiveness, confession, conversation and/or acts of love?

**Future:** What behaviors could you change to enhance a person’s sense of feeling loved in your relationship with them?

- Pray together using the ACTS model.
- Commit to pray daily about: ________________________________.
- Confirm next meeting details: ________________________________.
Meet Up Five: Options

• Practice your goal activity.
• Journal your personal reflections on this experience.
  o How has reflection on relational health assisted you this week?
  o How did practicing a new relational health discipline impact your week and your loved ones?
  o How is your relational health with Jesus this week? Do you feel his love and how are you showing him your love?

• Purpose: Dr. Gary Chapman, known best for *The 5 Love Languages*, said, “Our most basic emotional [relational] need is not to fall in love but to be genuinely loved by another, to know a love that grows out of reason and choice, not instinct. I need to be loved by someone who chooses to love me, who sees in me something worth loving... Love is something you do for someone else, not something you do for yourself... Forgiveness is not a feeling; it is a commitment. It is a choice to show mercy, not to hold the offense up against the offender. Forgiveness is an expression of love.”

• Scripture:
  “Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others (Philippians 2:1-4, NIV).

• Mentor Resources:
  o Books: *The 5 Love Languages*, Gary Chapman
    *Building Successful Relationships*, Michael Fletcher (There is also a Right Now Media video.)
  o Video: *Five Lies That Ruin Relationships*, Chip Ingram (Right Now Media)
  o Web Article: healthyplace.com/relationships/healthy-relationships/tips-on-how-to-have-healthy-relationships/
Meet-Up Six: Physical Health

**Past:** On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) how physically healthy would you rate yourself? Why? What were the thoughts on food and fitness in your home growing up?

**Present:** Is this an issue that you believe is relevant to Jesus followers? Why or why not? What are you currently doing to be physically healthy in relation to food and fitness?

**Future:** Do you believe the Holy Spirit has urged you to make any kinds of changes in these areas for your future? Why and what would they be?

- Pray together using the ACTS model.
- Commit to pray daily about: ________________________________.
- Meditate on 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 1 Corinthians 8:8a.
- Confirm next meeting details: ________________________________.
Meet Up Six: Options

• Practice your goal activity.
• Journal your personal reflections on this experience.
  o How has reflection on Physical Health assisted you this week?
  o How does practicing a new physical health discipline impact your week?
  o Reflecting on past goals and progress how have you grown during this time of mentoring?
• Purpose: Rick Warren, one of the creators of The Daniel Plan said, “There's a verse in the Bible that says Jesus went into every village preaching, teaching and healing. I say that preaching is evangelism; teaching is education; and healing is health care. Jesus didn't only care about getting people into heaven. He cared about spirit, mind and body. To me, health care isn't simply helping the sick get well, but helping the well not get sick."

• Scriptures:
  “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
  “Food does not bring us near to God” (1 Corinthians 8:8a).

• Mentor Resources:
  o Book: The Daniel Plan 40 Days to a Healthier Life by Rick Warren
  o Video: The 90 Day Fitness Challenge with Phil & Amy Parham (Right Now Media)
  o Web Article: archives.relevantmagazine.com/god/practical-faith/physical-health-spiritual-issue
Meet Up Seven: Purposeful Gifts

Past: When you look back on life, what moments/periods of purpose do you see? Why did these feel purposeful? Did anyone tell you that you were gifted as a child? When and at what? How did this affect you as you grew?

Present: Do you believe you have an identified purpose currently? What is it and why? Do you believe you have distinct God-given gifts? What are they? Has your perception changed from your childhood to now as you think about your gifting?

Future: What do you believe some future purposes might be for you and how might your gifts be used in the future? How could you do more to explore your gifts, purposes, and passions for your future?

- Pray together using the ACTS model.
- Commit to pray daily about: ________________________________.
- Meditate on 1 Corinthians 4:12-7.
- Confirm next meeting details: ________________________________.
Meet Up Seven: Options

- Practice your goal activity.
- Journal your personal reflections on this experience.
  - How has reflection on purpose and gifts assisted you this week?
  - Do you get jealous of other people’s purposes or gifts? In what ways and why?
  - What does God say about your special gifts and nature when you pray and read scripture?
- Purpose: Billy Graham, from *Hope for Each Day: words of Wisdom and Faith*, said, “Some people have a warped idea of living the Christian life. Seeing talented, successful Christians, they attempt to imitate them. For them, the grass on the other side of the fence is always greener. But when they discover that their own gifts are different, or their contributions are more modest (or even invisible), they collapse in discouragement and overlook genuine opportunities that are open to them. They have forgotten that they are here to serve Christ, not themselves.”

- Tool: United Methodist Church explanation / doctrinal explanation of 20 gifts, includes a Spiritual Gifts Assessment Link umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts
- Mentor Resources:
  - Books: *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren
    *Strengths Finder* by The Gallup Poll
  - Video: Stormi O’Martian You Are Unique
    rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98246
  - Web Article: lifeway.com/Article/How-to-Write-Your-Own-Personal-Mission-Statement
Meet Up Eight: Commitment to Jesus & Your Story

**Past:** Do you remember a time when you specifically committed to a Jesus lifestyle and faith? Did you feel compelled to make that moment public by telling someone and/or being baptized? Discuss that moment. [Don’t feel you have a story from your past? It’s okay. Check out the web article in the resources section, “My Boring Christian Testimony.”]

**Present:** How do you feel about your current commitment to Jesus? How would you share your story today? Is it planned? How can we share our story without clichéd church words?

**Future:** Do you believe there is a time and place when it won’t be safe to stand on your commitment and story? What do you believe will continue to happen with Jesus followers around the world who are being persecuted and martyred?

- Meditate on 1 Corinthians 1:4-9.
- Prayer of Closure: Pray over each other in turn this prayer: “Today I thank you God for my sister and her time and investment in our relationship. I lift her up to you Jesus as your child and servant filled with Spirit and love. May the Lord continue to richly bless her in life and her journey forward. Amen.”
- Set your next step following this experience.
- Confirm your attendance at the wrap up celebration.
Meet Up Eight: Options

- Practice your goal activity.
- Journal your personal reflections on this experience.
  - How has reflecting on your personal daily commitment to Jesus changed you this week?
  - When do you find yourself pulled away from Jesus or hiding your testimony?
  - What does God say about our testimony and commitment to him?

- Purpose: Dieter F. Uchtdorf said, “The Lord has blessed you with a testimony of the truth. You have felt his influence and witnessed his power. And if you continue to seek him, he will continue to grant you sacred experiences. With these and other spiritual gifts, you will be able not only to change your own life for the better but also to bless your homes, wards or branches, communities, cities, states and nations with your goodness.”

- Tool: 30 minutes to a Shareable Testimony
  evangelism.intervarsity.org/how/conversation/30-minutes-shareable-testimony

- Mentor Resources:
  - Books: One Thousand Gifts by Ann Voskamp
    The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom
  - Movie: Heaven is For Real (2014)
  - Web Article: My Boring Christian Testimony
    christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/december/how-i-know-my-testimony-is-real.html