

# Men's Ministry: Mentoring Relationships

A mentoring relationship consists of two men—one older and one younger—who are dedicated to meeting regularly (at least once a month) for one year at a mutually convenient time and location. Below are the expectations for both roles.

Expectations for the **older man**:

- **Recognize that you have valuable insights to share with a younger man.**
  - Be ready to share your experiences, mistakes, and wisdom.
  - You have a unique story of God's grace that is entirely yours.
- **Be aware that you don't need to have all the answers.**
  - It's actually more beneficial not to have all the answers. This prevents setting unrealistic expectations for younger men about "arriving" when they meet a certain age.
- **Be willing to listen more than advise.**
  - Many young men require a space to unpack their lives.
  - Share your experiences in a way that relates specifically to the younger man's context—what they need.
- **Be an encourager.**
  - Serve as a potential "glimpse of the future" for them.
- **Practice vulnerability and confidentiality.**
- **Pursue the younger man by showing a willingness to take the initiative in the relationship.**
- **Be open to meeting with fellow older men for support and encouragement.**
- **Aim to meet regularly (at least once a month) at a mutually convenient time.**
- **Commit to meeting with the younger man for one year.**

Expectations for the **younger man**:

- **Prioritize this relationship.**
- **Attend meetings faithfully and consistently.**
- **Practice vulnerability and confidentiality.**
  - Be willing to share your life.
- **Value the older man's experience.**
  - Understand that while the older man may not have all the answers, he possesses valuable experiences you can learn from.
- **Aim to meet regularly (at least once a month) at a mutually convenient time.**
- **Commit to meeting with the older man for one year.**

As a ministry, we want to prioritize fostering successful mentoring relationships. Strong relationships significantly enhance the mentoring experience, promoting meaningful connections over shared time. However, if it isn't working, we don't want to force it. We encourage both the younger and older Man to allow enough time to assess compatibility and then reach out if needed. We're glad to help!