

Starting a Mentorship Relationship Well: Part 2 (May 2011)

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Notice the title includes "Part 2." Last month we did Part 1. So let's continue.

When you start a mentorship relationship, there are some tips you can implement to hopefully help it start well.

Third, learn about love languages. There is a whole series of books on love languages. The premise of these books is that people give and receive love best in one of five ways: words of affirmation, physical touch, quality time, acts of service, and gift giving. Depending upon your mentee, you may have to adjust how you show love. One mentee may have the love language of time. So spending time together is hugely important. Another mentee may have the love language of gift giving. So you may need to get creative in that area, making little gifts for your mentee. Thankfully, Jesus showed us the ultimate example of how to love, and while we won't ever get it perfect, we have a lifetime to try.

Fourth, set goals. Set realistic expectations. It is vitally important that we set *obtainable* goals. For example, we cannot control someone else's behavior. So if you set a goal based upon another's actions, you will quickly be frustrated. Rather set goals such as attempting to meet each week or calling your mentee once a week. Perhaps another goal could be to intentionally pray for your mentee every day. We can't control if people show up, but we can control if we asked them to show up. Set goals and evaluate your goals.

Hopefully, these ideas will help you as you get started in a mentorship relationship. And if you have been mentoring for years, maybe these ideas will challenge or encourage you in a new way. Keep learning!