

Mentors Want to Know: Part 1 (June 2011)

By Michelle Olson

Especially as you begin a mentorship relationship, you may have a lot of questions. Here are some questions you may be asking... But before you go further, please notice that some have answers and some do not have answers. But we at least know that these are some of the questions, and you are not alone in asking them. ☺

-How is the match made? Well, you can ask someone. It doesn't get much simpler. Just ask. Ask someone with whom you may already have a connection, someone to whom the Lord may be leading you.

-What things are considered in a making a match? You may want to keep in mind your personality, your schedule, your interests, your goals, your location... Not to mention these issues in the mentee's life.

-How much time/how often do I spend with my mentee? I would recommend meeting once a week. Then if you miss meeting one week, too much time doesn't elapse before your next time together. If you begin by getting together every other week and you miss a time, you are only seeing each other once a month. It is difficult to build a mentorship seeing one another once a month.

-Will there be training so I know what activities I can do with them? We offer training opportunities about four times a year at the church.

-What if the match doesn't seem to go well? Talk about it with someone who can help you.

-What are the mentees like?

-What challenges do they face? All sorts. ☺

-What are their backgrounds?

-Why are they in this program? Because they were told they had to be in it... That is not true; actually they want to be in it. Most people want someone to invest in them, encourage them, challenge them, love them.

-What roles will I play — parent, teacher, friend?

There are many, many questions you may be asking. Keep asking. But don't get paralyzed by the questions. Trust Jesus with the answers!