

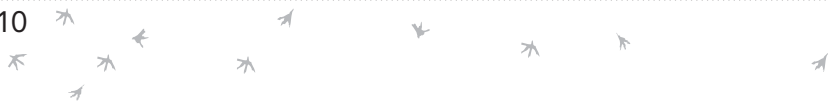
Impacting the Next Generation Through Lifestyle Mentoring

"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders. For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children."

Psalm 78:4-6

Several years ago God put a 19-year-old woman in my life named Cathi. We met in the music ministry at our church and shared an instant connection. She worked in the same building as my husband at the church, so I started intentionally dropping by her desk whenever I came to visit him. It was during these impromptu chats that our relationship really began. I started e-mailing her, taking her to lunch, and occasionally calling to check on her. Eventually I asked her to go shopping, or I would call her up and ask her to make a quick Costco run with me. We would talk about all sorts of things, from recipes to ministry. I never would have considered our relationship to be a "mentoring" relationship. But it was!

As the two of us grew closer, I realized Cathi was opening up to me about more personal, even deeper things. She had questions about God, spirituality,



the future of the church, the Bible, and even just the everyday stuff of life. I was no expert in these areas and never pretended to be. I tried to let my life speak louder than my words, and she seemed all right with and even drawn to that. God showed me I didn't have to be a Bible scholar or great teacher to mentor. I just needed to have the freedom to be me, to be available, and to be willing to share what I already knew.

After a while Cathi started introducing me to her friends, and we would all spend time together. Before long I realized they were all struggling with the same questions and issues and had few people to turn to for answers other than their peers. That's when I realized the need was so huge! They all needed a woman—a little older, a little wiser, and a little further down the road than they were—who was willing to be real and vulnerable with them. They needed someone to walk *with* them through life situations. They needed someone to listen, not remedy or solve their problems. Someone who would first love them but then talk with them, guide them, and point them in the right direction. They needed someone who loves and trusts God but messes up and is willing to talk about it!

✧ I hate the word *mentoring*! ✧

It became crystal clear that mentoring relationships are the way to connect with the next generation of women. I knew that other women like me were just the ones for the job. But I hate the word *mentoring*. It seems to conjure up thoughts of overwhelming responsibility, endless supplies of wisdom, long-term commitments and time-consuming meetings. So how could I tell women about the great need for mentors without scaring them, overwhelming them, or asking them to add another thing to their already jampacked schedules?

It was then that God started planting the seeds of lifestyle mentoring in my heart, and *That Makes Two of Us* was created.

So how is *That Makes Two of Us* different from conventional mentoring programs? Well, it isn't a "program" at all! *That Makes Two of Us* is an informal, yet intentional mentoring model. It is informal in that it is unstructured; there is no curriculum, there is no formula for how to spend your time, or even a time commitment, and there is no third-party matching (unless you want to count God as that third party!). It is a totally organic process.

Totally organic but completely intentional. You will learn to begin cultivating relationships intentionally as you start to view the next generation through a different lens. You will see conversations as opportunities to share what God has taught you through your own personal experiences and through Scripture. The good news? *You do this through relationship, not a program.*

✧ Walking through life together ✧

God has shown me through this journey that mentoring is not just about going through a book or sitting down and doing a Bible study together. It's about walking through life together. It's simple, convenient, fun, but most of all, it is God's plan to help spiritual growth happen.

Now, my personal passion is 20-somethings. Why? I believe this is the forgotten age group. They get out of college and are ready to change the world with enthusiasm and ideals larger than life itself. But with their newfound independence comes the harsh realization that they are very alone. No more youth group to attend, no more classes to occupy their time, and no more parents to fund life's costly adventures. In the midst of this exciting, overwhelming, life-shaping period, who can they turn to? Who can help them navigate the twists and turns of adulthood? The answer...*you!*

Throughout this guide I may refer to the young women in the 20-something age bracket, but whomever God puts in your path—whether 25, 35, or even 18—the same principles apply. God wants to use *you* to touch



somebody's life. Bottom line: *Mentoring is not a program; it's a lifestyle.* It's developing a friendship with someone one step behind you in the journey of life, spending time with her, recognizing that God has put the two of you together for a purpose, and making a point to interject life lessons and point out God moments as you go through life *together!*

You may be thinking, "Mentoring can't be that simple!" I assure you it is. Cathi and I have developed the following guide to help you understand lifestyle mentoring and the importance of investing in the women of the next generation. We are confident there is a quality mentor within each of you!

So we ask you to accept our invitation to impact the next generation...life-to-life.

You can do this!

Let us show you how!

