

What one student says about the program:

"My mentor is one of the most important people in my life. She is someone who I can completely trust and talk with about anything. Spiritually, I have grown so much closer to God through our in-depth Bible studies and discussions of His character."

-Mary Lee, 2017 4.12 Leadership Training Program graduate



Mary (center) with her mentor and sister at the 4.12 Leadership Training Program graduation

Joy El's mission statement is:

Providing opportunities for people to experience life-change through personal encounters with God.



Igniting a generation that seeks Him.

Psalm 24:6

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Joy El
Generation's
Barnabas
Program



Helping you grow through the help of a mentor

Hanging out with adults can be a very good thing!

The idea of asking an adult to hang out with you at least once a month might make you a little nervous. But sometimes the greatest blessings come when we leave our comfort zones — like when Peter got out of the boat to walk on the water to Jesus (see Matthew 14).

Not only is asking older people to help you grow in your faith a chance to see God at work in a unique way, but it is very biblical. Starting with Jesus, we see many examples in the Bible of people with wisdom taking time to invest in those who are spiritually less mature. In fact, in Titus 2, older people are told that they need to do this. So you're providing someone with an amazing opportunity!

You will find it is very cool for you too, as you have fun getting to know each other and learning from each other.



How do I find a mentor?

Please discuss this with your parent(s) and begin praying about whom you'll ask to serve as your mentor. Here are some things to consider:

- *Someone you and your parents trust. This person needs your parents' approval and a pastor's reference (or another church leader's). Please use references who are not relatives.

- *You should be sure that this person not only has a personal relationship with Jesus, but has a growing faith that is encouraging to others.

- *This will probably be someone that others respect, either because of his/her obvious talents or because of his/her quiet, humble service. You should definitely respect him/her, not only inwardly, but through an outwardly respectful and grateful attitude. S/he is giving you a great gift by agreeing to serve as your mentor.

- *Someone who has time for you at least once per month.

- *Someone you feel comfortable talking with, or with whom you think you could become comfortable quickly.

- *Someone you feel could encourage you and pray for you. You should pray for him/her too.

- *Someone of the same sex.

- *Someone with an email address s/he checks regularly, or who is willing to get one. (We keep in touch with the Barnabas mentors mostly through email.)

Then what do I do?

After prayerfully considering these things and talking with your parent(s), please use the invitation with this brochure to invite someone from your church to be your Barnabas mentor. Also include the mentor-oriented brochure we've provided (which should include an application), the basic guidelines for mentoring information sheet, and an envelope you have prepared for them to submit their papers to **Joy El**. After this person has agreed to serve as your mentor, please let the 4.12 Coordinator know who will meet with you and submit your parental approval form.



If S/he Says "No"

- *Remember that the rejection is not personal, but most likely an issue of scheduling or him/her not feeling adequate for the task.

- *Prayerfully consider another option. Ask for your parent(s)' or pastor's recommendation.

- *If you have trouble finding a mentor, talk to **Joy El's** Barnabas Mentor Coordinator (Stephanie Ziebarth at Stephanie@joyel.org).

- *Know that we are here to answer your questions and to address your concerns. We want this to be the best experience possible for you and your mentor! Please talk with us.