**Maximizing your Barnabas Mentoring Relationship**

Your mentor is giving you a great gift by committing to spend regular time intentionally encouraging and equipping you. You will soon discover that your mentor is just as grateful to know and be inspired by you. In order to make the most of this relationship, here are some considerations.

Consistency:

You both need to make your monthly meetings a priority. This can be a challenge with busy schedules, but meeting less than monthly leads to a great loss of momentum. Figure out with your mentor what works best for you two. Often, it is helpful to choose a consistent time each month to meet, such as the first Monday night, every third Sunday after church, before the first youth group meeting of the month, etc. If you choose a regular time, please make sure to get that time on your personal *and* your family calendar. We encourage YOU to take the initiative for getting together each month. However, if your mentor is the one who takes more initiative with this, please respond to his/her suggestions and questions as quickly and respectfully as possible.

Please also make any “homework” for this relationship a priority as well. You may decide with your mentor to go through a book or Bible study together. If you do, please make the most of the resource by doing your best work and being prepared for your times together. Many levels 1 and 2 mentoring pairs go through the *Growing in Christ* lessons together (which you are supposed to be completing anyway). Your mentor could also be a great help with your level project.

Communicating with your mentor:

Communication is key. Please respond to your mentor’s calls, texts, emails, etc. Please let your mentor know what form of communication works best for you, as well as what is worst for you. Also ask what is most effective for him/her.

Another crucial aspect of communication has to do with expectations. If your mentor is not meeting your expectations, you need to carefully consider what is specifically amiss. Then you need to pray about these concerns. Finally, you should talk about your expectations with your mentor (you may involve a parent or the Barnabas mentor coordinator if you would like). After all, your mentor cannot read your mind. S/he may be thinking you want your times together to be low-key, while you would like to be challenged more (or vice versa). Please graciously let your mentor know ways your relationship can improve.

Communicating with the Barnabas mentor coordinator:

 If you have concerns about how your mentoring relationship is going, please mention them to a parent and/or the Barnabas mentor coordinator. The Barnabas mentor coordinator is available to help. This might mean brainstorming how to fit your mentoring times in your schedule, facilitating a conversation with your mentor that you do not know how to start, processing through your thoughts on what could be better within your mentoring relationship, etc. If you are not regularly meeting with your mentor, *especially if it is the mentor who is hard to reach*, please reach out to the Barnabas mentor coordinator ASAP. While she provides accountability and regular communication to mentors, she may not know with certainty whether you two are regularly meeting. Her contact info is: stephanie@joyel.org and 717-387-7762.

Spiritual growth updates:

 Your spiritual growth update (SGU) is due by the end of each month. You are to send these to sgu@joyel.org *and* your mentor. Please make sure you have your mentor’s email address so you can send these. The SGUs help your mentor know how you are doing in the program and in your relationship with Jesus.



Special events:

 Barnabas Fusion events, work days, and the Joy El Jubilee dates can be found on the annual calendar. While your mentor is only required to attend the foundational mentor training (for mentors only), participating in these other events/days of service can be an excellent time of growth and enjoyment for both of you. Please get these dates on your calendar ASAP and encourage your mentor to do the same.

Confidentiality:

 Your mentor has been informed that s/he is a mandatory reporter, as detailed by the state of Pennsylvania. While your mentor will respect your confidence, s/he is required by law to report any concerns that involve you being at risk or you putting someone else at risk.

If you have any questions or comments about this information, please reach out to Stephanie Ziebarth, Barnabas mentor coordinator, via stephanie@joyel.org or 717-387-7762. Thank you.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” -Hebrews 10:24-25