

Shared Journeys

The Student / Mentor Process



“So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Youth Ministries
Olivet Lutheran Church

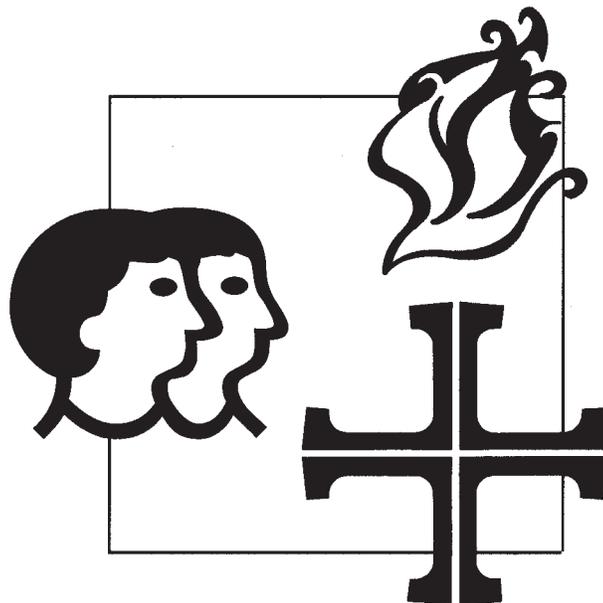
☞ Mentor/Student Covenant ☞

Mentor and student discuss the following Covenant Agreement. Both sign the agreement after discussing it.

I commit myself to the mentor/student relationship we are beginning today. I will make every effort to complete the expectations of this mentoring program so that I may share my faith, grow in faith, and become closer to my mentor/student. I promise to be open and honest with my mentor/student. I commit to praying daily for my mentor/student/friend. I will treat with respect all confidences we share.

(student)

(mentor)



Why? What do we do?

Why?

The front of this booklet says at the top “Shared Journeys.” This is the essence of what the Mentor/Student process is all about. We can learn a lot from each other! Why do you think Jesus surrounded himself with disciples? We need people around us as examples active faith lives. We live in a world that isn’t always telling us to do the “right” thing and we need strong supportive relationships to share our struggles with. Studies have shown that one of the very most important steps we can take in a student’s life is to connect them with a healthy adult in a mentoring relationship. Experience has also shown us that as adults, we learn the most about ourselves when we work with students and their struggles.

Thank you so much for your willingness to share your lives with each other! Know that you both can learn a lot about each other and from each other. It is not what you do that is necessarily always important, but the relationship you build and willingness to care for each other.

What do we do?

What a great question! We hope that over the course of this year, and the years to come, the two of you have that opportunity to talk with each other, grow with each other, and find out what you have in common. It is through sharing our struggles and joys with other people that we can truly see God’s love alive. God wants us to have people we can turn to in times of need. God wants people in our lives that can celebrate our accomplishments. This is what you will be doing . . . sharing your lives with each other in an effort to learn from each other how you can more fully live out your faith lives!

Listed are some of the expectations we have for mentors/mentees. We hope the following can help the two of you come to know and learn about each other in new ways!

1. Throughout the year, you are asked to attend two Mentor Nights at Olivet, These nights students will bring their mentors to confirmation. Mentors will participate with students in discussions and activities pertaining to faith and the importance of relationships!
2. To build your relationship with your student, **you are asked to get together at least 5 times throughout the year outside of our classtime together.**

What should we do together? Ideas...

- * Do one service project of your choice together.
 - * Go out to eat together.
 - * Do something recreational together (ex. golfing, fishing, walking, photography, mini-golf, etc...)
 - * Participate in some activity at the church together (ex. worship, Family Faith Night, service project, Christmas Eve Dinner, Lenten Dinners, etc...)
 - * Teach each other about something you love (Do you skateboard? Play video games? Knit? Cook? Play an instrument? Have a special hobby? Know how to build something? Know how to make jewelry?) Share it!
3. For 10th Grade Mentors, you are also invited to attend the Confirmation Banquet and Service for your student in April or May of their sophomore year.



To The Mentor



(Part One)

Welcome to this special time of sharing faith journeys! Being a mentor is an exciting journey together with a young person. You will learn much about each other and your faith. Have fun! Share openly! Grow in faith!

Let's get started by looking at the origins and meaning of mentoring.

History of Mentoring

He was first and foremost their Savior and Lord. He was also their *mentor*. They called him *rabbi*, and he was indeed their teacher. But he did so much more than share a body of knowledge about God with them. Any time God wants us to learn something God almost always imparts it through a person. Jesus spent time with the Twelve modeling for them what God is like and what a follower of God looks like. Jesus was indeed their mentor.

We learn what it means to be a Christian in a variety of ways. We do so through worship, Christian education, Bible reading, youth group events, and prayer. A very significant way we learn what it means for us to be a follower of Jesus Christ is by observing the witness and example of others.

Mentoring has been around since antiquity. In Greek mythology Mentor was a trusted friend and advisor of Odysseus (Ulysses) who mentored Ulysses' son, Telemachus. In the early centuries of the Christian Church there were mentors. It was not uncommon for a new believer to have a mentor. The church father/theologian, Origen, mentored the young Gregory of Thaumaturgus and was himself mentored by Clement of Alexandria.

Many school systems today are implementing mentoring programs as is a significant segment of the United States business community. Estimates are that a third of this nation's major businesses now have formal mentoring programs. (Arthur Bragg, *"Is a Mentor Program in Your future?"*)

According to Ted Engstrom and Norman Rohrer in *The Fine Art of Mentoring*, an outstanding and memorable example of mentoring can be seen in Anne Mansfield Sullivan. Anne Sullivan

was mentor to a young deaf and blind girl, Helen Keller. Anne Sullivan wrote these words in March of 1887:

My heart is singing for joy this morning. A miracle has happened! The light of understanding has shone upon my little pupil's mind, and, behold, all things are changed.

(Helen Keller, *The Story of My Life*)

Goals

The goal of mentoring in the Church is to help develop committed followers of Christ who learn faith from the model of another. Our purpose is not so much to pass on a body of knowledge or information from mentor to young person as it is to enable **the building of a relationship between a mature believer and a young person so that an environment for sharing faith can occur.** It is important that we build relationships and model the relational, corporate nature of our faith for youth.

While young people need to know the doctrines of the faith, they also need someone who can help them understand what it means for the baptized people of God to love one another, to encourage one another, to pray for one another, and to build one another up in the faith.

It is no longer common in our time, but in previous generations mentoring was a normal, natural part of life. For example, an apprentice would learn a trade from a master artisan, blacksmith, or other skilled, experienced person. Masters not only taught the trade. They frequently taught the meaning of the way of life that went with it as well. Besides sharing knowledge, they also modeled wisdom and character.

The Bible contains many examples of faith-mentoring relationships. Barnabas mentored the great apostle, Paul. It was Naomi who mentored her daughter-in-law, Ruth. Moses was a mentor to his successor, Joshua.

And what of you? Are you ready to be a mentor and to join in a shared journey of faith?



To The Mentor



(Part Two)

*Advocate? Guide? Encourager? Supporter?
Caregiver? Inspirer? Giver of Affirmation?
Challenger? Advisor? Sounding Board?*

What Is a Mentor?

Thank you for your commitment to help a young person grow in faith! You may be wondering what it means to be a mentor at Olivet. *A mentor in our congregation is a mature Christian who is excited about modeling his or her relationship with Jesus Christ with a confirmation student. The mentor should believe in the potential for teaching and learning which comes from a special, one-to-one relationship with a young person.*

Many of us have been blessed by God with people who were our *unofficial* mentors. What we received from them was not just a body of information but also a desire to live life in Christ. They gave us a desire to share a journey of faith in Christ with other people of God. *This mentoring took place in an unstructured, rather spontaneous way. It can also happen in a structured setting.*

Perhaps you've found that you learn more quickly by having someone demonstrate something for you rather than by reading it from a book. You are going to have the joy and privilege of being a living pattern for a young person. *You should consider yourself part of the team of teachers/learners in Olivet's confirmation process.*

Remember, too, that what we are doing is unique with respect to most other learning environments. William J. O'Malley, S. J., describes what we are trying to do in this way:

... we are trying to change opinions. If what we say about the purpose of human life is not internalized, then we are wasting our time. (William J. O'Malley, *Becoming a Catechist: Ways to Outfox Teenage Skepticism.*)

Characteristics of a Mentor

What are the qualities most needed in a mentor? Most of all, you need to be committed to Christ and the Church. *Effective mentors are open to sharing with students what things enable their growth in faith.* Effective mentors are active in the worship life and ministry at Olivet. We hope

you are excited about continuing to grow in your relationship with God.

This material will challenge you to articulate how you relate your faith to your daily life. It will also call you to a desire to assist, challenge, encourage, and inspire your student. It is important to believe in your young person's potential and in his or her gifts. It is also important that you enjoy relating to young people. You will need to be open and honest in sharing your own struggles to be faithful to God. Also be ready and willing to listen to the spiritual struggles of the young person you will mentor.

The ability to keep a confidence is very important to this program. Confidentiality, except in cases where harm could come to the student or someone else by your not sharing what you know, is very important to the mentor/student relationship. You are required by law to report any instances of abuse of your student or any threats a student makes toward the student's own life or that of another. You can report this to one of the pastors.

Your Commitment

Mentors will develop a relationship with one young person from the congregation. **This relationship should provide you with opportunities to share your faith and how you live it with your student and to learn from each other.** You are asked to meet with your student at least five times during the year, as well as participate in two Mentor Nights at Olivet each year

You are encouraged to continue to meet informally after your mentee has completed the Confirmation process!! *Let the relationship continue to grow. This time is a very important part of a young person's life, and your presence and support will be a wonderful gift throughout his/her young life.* Please plan to join your student's family members and godparents in the "laying on of hands" during the service of Affirmation of Baptism, in October of their sophomore year.

THANK YOU for giving the gift of time and of love to these kids!

Mentor Interview

This is your first opportunity to learn more about your mentor. Please ask your mentor each of the following questions. You may want to write down your mentor's answers in the space provided, or on another sheet of paper. (Your mentor may also ask you some of these same questions).

1. How did you decide to be an active adult in the church?
2. How do you discover God's will for your life?
3. In what ways would you say your faith is different today than it was five years ago?
4. In what ways do you think your faith might be different five years from now?
5. Can you tell me about someone who especially modeled the faith for you? Is there someone you would describe as your mentor?
6. How do you relate your faith to your daily life, activities, and decisions?
7. Is there anything you would like to share with me regarding what you hope will happen in this new relationship we are beginning today?
8. Can you think of any famous mentor/student relationships you've seen in movies, from history, from the sports world, or other places?
9. What was your confirmation like?

Student Interview

Mentors, interview your student using this following list of questions:

1. What in life makes you most happy?

What makes you the most sad or mad?

2. What is one struggle you have had in your life?

3. How would you describe three of your closest friends?

How would they describe you?

4. Where do you see yourself in 5 years? ... 10 years? ... 20 years? ... 50 years?

5. What is one aspect of your faith that you really struggle with?

What is one aspect of your faith that you think is really cool?

6. What is one struggle you have with your family?

What about your family do you appreciate most?

Service

Read James 2:14-17 together and discuss what it means.

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)

There are many different types of service. Name as many different types of service as you can. Try to write down three.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Confirmands are required to do service projects for Confirmation. What was the most memorable community service project that you have done?

There are many ways in which we can serve our church. List several and talk about some of the things you have done for the church as a member of Olivet’s congregation.

How does serving others make you feel?

How important is it to you to help others outside of Olivet? Is there something you are doing presently to minister to others in the community?

What do you see as the greatest need in our community right now?

Friends

*"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."
(Proverbs 18:24)*

Everybody wants to have friends. You can get pretty lonely without friends. According to the dictionary, a friend is "a person you know well who is on your side; someone who is supportive, helpful and reliable." Children want playmates, but young people and adults want friends. A friend is someone you want to be with because he or she likes you and cares about you - and vice-versa.

Make a list of ten people you know. Choose from the following categories: friends from school, friends from church, friends in your neighborhood, adult friends, a boyfriend or girlfriend, friends who live out of town, and family members.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Mark your friends with a symbol according to the following chart:

- * = A very close friend; we are almost inseparable.
- + = A good friend; we spend time together and have fun together.
- # = A casual friend; we don't spend much time together.

Who is your very best friend right now?

What makes this person such a good friend? What do you like most about him or her?

Check the following statements that you agree with:

I would like to have more friends.
My friends have a good influence on me.
I have a difficult time making friends.
I'd like to trade in some of my friends for new ones.
My parents don't like my friends.
I choose the right kind of friends.
Most of my friends are Christians.
I get along with my friends.
Some of my friends have hurt me.

Which of the following characteristics of a friend are most important to you? Rank them from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important)

Same age as me
Likes to do the same things that I like
Popular
Christian
Lives close to me
High moral standards
Has no other friends
Comes from a good family
Has money
Trustworthy

What do you think you should do if some of your friends are getting you into trouble or having a negative influence on you?

Read the following Scripture passages. See what they have to say about friendships:

Job 2:11
Ecclesiastes 4:10
I Corinthians 15:33
II Corinthians 6:14

Interview your parents or some other adults. Ask them to answer the following questions (or any others you want to ask) about friends.

1. Who was your best friend when you were my age?
2. What do you remember most about that friend?
3. Is that person still your friend? Do you stay in touch now? Why or why not?

∞ Values ∞

*“And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”
(Micah 6:8)*

Read the following quote and story together and discuss what it means:

***“Who you are speaks so loudly I can’t hear what you’re saying.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson***

It was a sunny Saturday afternoon in Oklahoma City. My friend and proud father Bobby Lewis was taking his two little boys to play miniature golf. He walked up to the fellow at the ticket counter and said, “How much is it to get in?” The young man replied, “\$3.00 for you and \$3.00 for any kid who is older than six. We let them in free if they are six or younger. How old are they?” Bobby replied, “The lawyer’s three and the doctor is seven, so I guess I owe you \$6.00.” The man at the ticket counter said, “Hey, Mister, did you just win the lottery or something? You could have saved yourself three bucks. You could have told me that the older one was six; I wouldn’t have known the difference.” Bobby replied, “Yes, that may be true, but the kids would have known the difference.”

Story written by Patricia Fripp for “Chicken Soup for the Soul”

What is the moral of this story?

What did the father teach his children about values?

The dictionary defines values as, “a guiding principle or ideal.” How would you define values?

What are some morals and values that you have learned from your family? Try to name three.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How do values affect your daily life?

What are some values that many people lack in today's world?

What values does Christ want us to have?

Has there been a time when you have gone against what your values/morals are? Explain. What was the result?

Jesus told His followers that the two most important rules to live by were these:

1. Love God.
2. Love other people.

Do you think you could live by those two rules? Which one do you think is harder? Why?

How do our actions speak about who we are?

How do you think that people perceive you? What might your values/morals have to do with this?

***Be careful how you live.
You may be the only Bible some people ever read.***

Faith

Read the following Bible verse together and discuss what it means:

He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

The dictionary defines faith as, "A belief or trust in God." How would you define faith?

When have you learned the most about your faith?

What are some questions or doubts you may have about God or your faith?

Where can you go to find answers to your questions about faith and doubt?

Describe a time in your life when your faith was tested.

What are some things that you have faith in?

Why do you have faith in these things?

The Family

Another name for family could be “body” as used in **1 Corinthians 12:12-26**

“For just as the body (family) is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member, but of many... If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

God has made us all members of the body (family) of Christ through baptism. What are some of the things that get in the way of us working together as a family to serve Christ?

How would you describe Olivet as a “family”? What are some ways Olivet is a healthy family? What are some ways that Olivet is not?

How would you describe your family?

What are three things you like about your family and why. List three things you don't like about your family and why.

1 Corinthians 12 also says that we all have different, yet, important roles in the body of Christ. This translates to the fact we have different roles in our family as well as at Olivet. What role do you see yourself in with your family and at Olivet?

A.) The troublemaker; B) The breadwinner; C) The loud mouth; D) The slave; E) The comedian;
F) The peacemaker; G) The cheerleader; H) The black sheep; I) The invisible man or woman;
J) Other _____.

Why do you see yourself in this role and would you like to change it? If so, what to?

The church is one family - but your biological family is to be the most important family you have. Do you believe this? Why or why not?

If you could change one thing about your family, what would it be? What would be one thing you'd like to change about Olivet?

Being a part of a family means working together. What is one way you help your family? What is one way you could improve in helping your family?

Close by praying about your family and the family at Olivet.



Decisions/Choices



*The human mind may devise many plans,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.
(Proverbs 19:21)*

Every minute we are each faced with decisions and choices. Some decisions and choices are easy and some are very difficult. *What am I going to do this weekend? What will I do after high school? Should I lie to my parents? Who should I spend the rest of my life with? What should I eat for lunch? What do I want to do with my life?* These are just a few of the questions you may ask yourself on a daily basis. In this session, Confirmands and Mentors will examine the many decisions and choices that we are faced with all the time.

Name three decisions or choices that you had to make today.

How did you arrive at your decision/choice?

Have you ever made a poor decision/choice?

What was the outcome?

One of the biggest decisions you will ever make is deciding what to do after high school. Some people wait a long time before making a plan, while others seem to have known forever. It is normal to change your mind a few times, but it is best to at least be thinking about life after high school.

Many people believe that we work simply to earn a living - so that we can have money and pay our bills. According to Scripture, we work to serve the Lord and to serve others, and our work then becomes an act of worship. In reality, God is the one who provides our living for us.

What are you good at?

What experience do you have?

Write down a dream of yours that you would like to pursue.

Complete the following sentences:

Ten years from now, the world will be . . .
better than it is now.
worse than it is now.
no different than it is now.

When I think of my future and the decisions/choices that I am faced with, I . . .
feel discouraged.
get excited.
don't care.

When I grow up, I want to be . . .
rich.
famous.
happy.

Our decisions and choices can affect us for years to come. With that in mind, answer the following questions:

Think about yourself and the future. What do you think your life will be like . . .

Ten years from now?

Where will you live?

What will you be doing?

Will you be married or single?

What accomplishments will you have achieved?

True or False:

Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

God can help you achieve the things in life that you want to achieve.

There isn't much you can do to control your destiny.

The sky's the limit for people who have ambition and desire.

Your past determines your future.

There are too many problems to overcome in order to be successful in life.

A long journey begins with one small step.

You can't really plan the future. It's determined by chance or luck.

Christians have a positive outlook on the future because they are forgiven for the past.

The world is probably coming to an end in your lifetime.

Your hope for the future is based on your faith in God.

It's the government's job to provide a secure future for you.

You can do all things through Christ who gives you strength.

Does God and our Christian faith play a role in our decision making? How?

Making A Difference Through MENTORING

By Erin Hemme Froslie

The Forum

When Paula Aalgaard recruits adults to spend time with Moorhead youth, she usually omits mentioning the word mentor.

"Mentoring sounds too intimidating," says the volunteer coordinator of Moorhead Healthy Community Initiative. "But if I ask someone to go bowling or listen to a child, they can do that."

A mentor, in the basic form, is a caring human being who makes a positive contribution to the life of someone else. In two simple words, a mentorship is a good relationship.

A mentor is not a savior, a foster parent, a therapist, a cool peer or an ATM machine.

Traditionally, mentoring has been a one-on-one relationship between an adult and child. But guiding a peer or the elderly is becoming more common. Sometimes one can mentor an entire group.

"We're letting go of traditional models of mentoring," says Mary Kenna, director of volunteer services at FirstLink in Fargo. "More people mentor than we realize it."

Kenna is one of those. She leads her daughter's Brownie troop, but never considered herself a mentor until she remembered how she was influenced by a junior high Girl Scout leader.

"We never know the impact we have," she says. "All we need to do is listen and validate what kids and people are saying."

Mentoring can range from tutoring to playing basketball to reading to a group.

But, Kenna and Aalgaard say, one-on-one relationships are still ideal.

Informal mentoring in neighborhoods, schools and in the workplace has always been common, but in the past few years formal opportunities are increasing.

This is in part because it's becoming more difficult for youth to form relationships with adults outside of their immediate families. A survey two years ago by the Search Institute found that one-fifth of all 6th

to 12th grade public school students had no good conversations with an adult (besides a parent) in the past month.

In 1997, President Clinton, former presidents, members of Congress and leaders from all over the country joined Colin Powell in Philadelphia for a summit on America's future. The first goal the summit set was to reach 2 million mentors by the year 2000.

Why? Because the results can be phenomenal, Kenna says. According to a study of Big Brothers Big Sisters, young people with mentors are 46 percent less likely to start using drugs, 33 percent less likely to hit someone and 52 percent less likely to skip a day of school.

"A mentor can help kids make better choices," Kenna says.

Some programs require extensive screening for both mentor and mentee. Time commitments can range from once a week to only a few times each year.

Matt Morrissey and Jamie Lloyd, 17, both of West Fargo, were paired together in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program seven years ago.

The two play softball together every Wednesday night during the summer and like anything competitive: bowling, video games, go-cart racing.

They've even done goofy things like dressing up as Fred and Barney from "The Flintstones" for a Halloween party.

"We're kind of like family now," Morrissey says. What started as a year-long commitment has become a life-long relationship.

Lloyd has noticed a difference since Morrissey became his big brother. "I have more confidence," he says, "and I think I'm doing better in school."

Aalgaard says it's examples like this that show how simple mentoring can be.

"You don't need to be a specialist in child development," she says. "It's just time. It's just nice to have someone special who sees you once a week."

The Mentor and the Student

By Erin Hemme Froslic

The Forum

Morrie taught the lesson; Mitch Albom wrote the paper. But the classroom wasn't on the campus of Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., from where Albom graduated in 1979. This unforgettable class took place in his old professor's home.

Since "Tuesdays with Morrie" hit the bookshelves in 1997, it has sold more than 2 million copies.

The book about the friendship of two people - Morrie Schwartz, a dying old man who loved life and Albom, a young man in a hurry - has touched people in a world where success is determined by how fast you accomplish and not by who you befriend.

Albom was on that fast track. An award-winning sports columnist for the Detroit Free Press, he was flipping through TV channels one night and heard Ted Koppel introduce Morrie Schwartz on "Nightline."

Albom was stunned. Morrie had been his favorite college professor. Now, in 1995, he was dying of Lou Gehrig's Disease.

It had been 16 years since Albom promised Morrie he would keep in touch. He hadn't. But Albom began to visit his old mentor every Tuesday for 14 weeks.

Even as Morrie was dying, he talked to Albom about family, marriage, forgiveness, the perfect day and love. Not one to pity himself, Morrie insisted on sharing his dying with others.

Albom wrote what he calls his and Morrie's "last thesis together" to pay for Morrie's medical bills.

But Morrie's words had power. They encouraged Albom to slow down and reevaluate his own life.

Albom cut back on the number of weekly columns he writes. He dropped free-lancing and makes fewer appearances on ESPN.

In addition, he now gives his wife, instead of his employer, the best hours of his day.

Albom will address "Lessons for Living" and "Finding a Mentor - And Being One" at 6:30pm Monday at the Concordia College Memorial Auditorium; admission is \$5.

His appearance is part of the college's orientation program.

In a recent interview, Albom talked about the book and mentoring.

• You considered Morrie your mentor; do you see yourself as a mentor today?

I think probably one of the marks of a good mentor is he doesn't see himself that way. I think I'm too undeveloped as a person to be somebody else's mentor, although I am a conduit for what Morrie had to offer. I think Morrie was a mentor to a lot of the readers. I held the door open for the

class.

• How important is a mentor?

I think it's critical. It's not a far word from father, mother, teacher, counselor, wise grandmother, best friend or uncle. You know everybody needs the wisdom of people who have been there before.

I think as we move around more in this country, the man down the road who used to sit on the front porch isn't someone you've known your whole life. We're not in one place long enough to foster those relationships. Even now that has disappeared in the workplace. We're doing ourselves in by this.

• How easy is it for you to live by Morrie's advice?

I try to say that I'm not a finished product of this class. I'm a perpetual student myself. I have to reread the book myself to keep my life in perspective. It was easier to remember when I was seeing him dying, but as time passes it's harder to remind yourself of that.

I make time for the people who are dear to me and remember Morrie's regrets, but it's hard. In fact, now I have more demands to talk about the book and Morrie. In a way the book has made things tougher.

• What do people think about the changes you've made in your life?

I cleared out a lot of time after Morrie's death. Surprisingly, people get used to it. When I was considering a radio contract, everything was settled except the vacation. I said I have to have at least 2 1/2 months off. They said nobody gets more than two weeks. I said then I'm not going to do it.

I'm surprised at how many people admire and agree with it privately.

• In one of the last sections of the book, Morrie asks you to visit his grave. Have you?

Oh, yeah. That was a big pact between us. I kind of think that's the essence of the whole book. If you make a life like he did with people, then you can still have that relationship after you're dead. You can have these conversations - not ghost conversations - but you're living on inside of them because of the time you shared with them. That's how you cheat death a little bit.

• Morrie said you must learn how to die before you live. Did you learn how to die from him?

I'm learning. You want to die with a certain serenity. You want to die with the sense of giving something to the community around you. I'd be lying if I thought I had achieved that. I'm not near complete on that yet.

FIFTY THINGS YOU AND YOUR KID CAN DO TOGETHER

It is helpful to remember that the main ingredient in a mentoring relationship is your presence. You don't have to teach or counsel or do anything that sounds "mentor-like". Your primary goal in a mentoring relationship is to be a friend. Once the relationship is established, mentoring just "happens."

The following is a list of activities that may give you some ideas of things you and the young person you are mentoring can do together. Some of these activities are just for fun; others provide opportunities for instruction and learning. This list is not exhaustive, so add your own ideas to it.

1. Go to a ball game.
2. Have devotions.
3. Go bowling.
4. Work on a service project.
5. Go to a movie or rent a video. Discuss it afterward.
6. Go on a hike or cross-country skiing.
7. Ride bikes.
8. Go to the mall.
9. Help a homeless person.
10. Build a model airplane.
11. Play computer games.
12. Be a chauffeur for the young person and his or her date.
13. Wash a car - yours, the young person's, or even someone else's.
14. Visit a college.
15. Read through a book of the Bible. Try using Eugene Peterson's *The Message*.
16. Do the young person's chores.
17. Cook a meal.
18. Go fishing.
19. Fly a kite. Better yet, build your own kite and fly it.
20. Give the young person guitar lessons - or have him/her give you guitar lessons.
21. Attend a concert.
22. Play video games.
23. Go bungee jumping.
24. Play laser tag.
25. Work through a Bible study book.
26. Bake and decorate a birthday cake for someone.
27. Play a round of golf.
28. Go to an amusement park.
29. Go camping.
30. Chop wood.
31. Go hunting with a camera.
32. Fix a meal for a shut-in and deliver it.
33. Exercise - lift weights or do aerobics.
34. Play board games until two in the morning.
35. Make a quilt.
36. Go rock climbing.
37. Read a novel.
38. Visit a museum.
39. Look at old pictures.
40. Collect stamps.
41. Go swimming.
42. Secretly mow someone's lawn while the person is away.
43. Make a video.
44. Start a "breakfast and Bible Study" group.
45. Make a snowman or go sledding.
46. Go for a walk on the beach or in the park.
47. Go to the airport and try to figure out where everybody is from.
48. Do homework.
49. Visit someone in the hospital.
50. Introduce the young person you are mentoring to your family.

THE SEVEN DOS OF MENTORING

Instructions: Read each of the statements below and check those that you are willing to commit yourself to. If you check all seven, sign your name at the bottom and keep this list handy as a constant reminder of what good mentoring is all about.

BE CONSISTENT

I will be dependable and trustworthy as a member. To the best of my ability, I will honor my commitments and keep my promises. I **will be there** for the youth I am mentoring on a regular and consistent basis for as long as I am required to do so.

BE YOURSELF

I will be thankful for who I am - for the personality, gifts, talents, abilities, and attributes that God has specifically given to me. I believe that God knows me, loves me, and has called me to serve as a mentor to youth. And I am confident that He will be able to use me just the way I am.

BE A LISTENER

I will take every opportunity to be a good listener in my mentoring relationship. I will avoid judging and lecturing. I will listen attentively because I care, and because I desire to treat the youth I am mentoring with dignity and respect.

BE HONEST

I will do my best to tell the truth always in my mentoring relationship, even when it hurts. In so doing, I will inspire the youth I am mentoring to be honest with me. When either of us is unsure of the truth, we will be honest with each other and seek to discover the truth together.

BE PATIENT AND FORGIVING

I will be realistic about the expectations I have for the youth I am mentoring. I will do my best to demonstrate unconditional love in every circumstance by being gracious, understanding, slow to anger, patient, and forgiving. I will not allow failures to destroy our relationship.

BE ENCOURAGING

I will bring out the best in the youth I am mentoring by being generous with affirmation, encouragement, gratitude, and praise. I will do all that I can to inspire my youth to dream dreams and to recognize the potential that he or she has in Christ Jesus.

PRAY HARD

I will not become frustrated or discouraged because of my inability to change a young person's life. Instead, I will pray daily for the youth I am mentoring, and trust God to do what I cannot do.

Signed _____

