

Need for Discipling Our Youth

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Overview

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- Case Studies
- The 7 Steps Approach
- Discipling and Mentoring Defined
- How to Do It
- Challenges Parents Face
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My Expertise

- AFCOMAP Mentor of the Year, presented by CSAF
- AF HBCU Mentoring Program, Co-leader & Consultant
 - Connected over 100 cadets with active-duty mentors across 6 schools
 - Over 200 volunteers, praised by AF leadership
 - 2022 USAF Volunteer of the Year
- Mentored pastors, ministers, co-workers, youth; young people still seek me out for advice
- With the success, a series of failures and lessons learned
 - Did not effectively disciple all family in the Gospel
 - Not all are walking by faith or led by the Holy Spirit
 - Passed out some bad advice

Initial Case Studies – What Would You Do?

- Your daughter is about to go off to college and wants to date a new boyfriend. What do you do?
- You meet a college student and they don't believe in a white Jesus because of how religion has been used to oppress people.
- Your child talks back to you when confronted with an issue.
- Your youth headed out to their first job interview with school shirt and freshly pressed jeans.

First Steps – Follow the 7 Steps (Leviticus 23)

- Cross – Recognize the need, humility
- Grave – Turn from your way
- Resurrection – Take a different approach via the Word, hope
- Holy Spirit – Ask the questions, what gives God glory
 - Note: don't even think about starting discipleship without this step
- Mercy (Rapture) – Meet them where they are; bring them to Step 1
- Judgement, Victory (2nd Coming) – Don't go off track, give it to God
- Peace (Christ Reigns) – Rest and get ready to repeat the process

Definition of Discipleship: Following Jesus and helping others do the same. The intentional process of helping others grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ, equipping them to live according to His teachings and share their faith with others. Discipling focuses on spiritual growth, biblical understanding, and the development of Christ-like character, often emphasizing accountability, prayer, and practical application of Scripture in daily life.

Biblical mentoring: is a relational process in which a more mature believer provides guidance, encouragement, and wisdom to help another individual grow spiritually, emotionally, and personally, in alignment with biblical principles. It involves sharing life experiences, offering practical advice, and modeling Christ-like character, all while pointing the mentee toward a deeper relationship with God and a life rooted in Scripture. Biblical mentoring often addresses various aspects of life—faith, relationships, work, and challenges—while consistently prioritizing a God-centered perspective and the mentee’s spiritual growth.

Steps to Get Started at Home & Church

- Recognize the need to do it. Deuteronomy 6:5-7, Proverbs 1:8, Exodus 14.
- Turn from doing nothing or relying only on others, church for discipling.
- Look to the word, lessons, materials, etc.
- Take action to set up time, sessions, for conducting discipleship and mentoring.
- Meet the child, teen, young person where they are and bring them along.
- Check yourself, not about you and teach righteousness.
- Process brings peace, check your results.

Top 10 Challenges Parents Face (ChatGPT)

1. **Lack of Communication:** Teens often share less with their parents.
2. **Disrespectful Attitude:** Talking back, rolling eyes, or a generally defiant tone.
3. **Excessive Screen Time:** Too much time on phones, gaming, or social media.
4. **Messiness:** Leaving bedrooms, bathrooms, or shared spaces untidy.
5. **Procrastination:** Delaying homework, chores, or other obligations.
6. **Poor Academic Effort:** Not studying enough or neglecting schoolwork.
7. **Disregard for Family Rules:** Breaking curfews, ignoring agreed-upon expectations.
8. **Mood Swings:** Emotional volatility, being overly sensitive, irritable, or withdrawn.
9. **Lack of Motivation:** Laziness or a lack of ambition for future goals.
10. **Peer Influence:** Overly influenced by friends, particularly those with negative behaviors.

Overcoming Some of These Challenges

- **Common Obstacles:**
 - Time constraints, being relatable, personal differences, or spiritual discouragement.
- **Solutions:**
 - Commit to prioritizing discipleship.
 - Seek unity and patience through the Holy Spirit.
 - Follow the steps before you begin a session.
 - Positive reinforcement with verbal feedback by praising small wins.
 - Pray and worship together.

What Not to Do

- Make conversations about you
- Control the relationship or steer its outcomes
- Always give the right answer
- Underestimate your mentee
- Betray confidentiality/trust
- Get away from the Word...always show examples and application back to the Word
- Be too prescriptive

Why Are Parents Not Doing This?

1. **Lack of Knowledge:** They feel unequipped or unsure how to start.
2. **Fear of Rejection:** They worry about being turned away or ridiculed.
3. **Busyness:** They prioritize other activities over discipleship.
4. **Complacency:** They may not see it as their personal responsibility.
5. **Insecurity:** They doubt their spiritual maturity or ability to lead.
6. **Cultural Pressures:** They fear going against societal norms or offending others.
7. **Misunderstanding the Mission:** They see discipleship as optional rather than a command from Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20)

More Case Studies

- Your teen wants to drive back to school at night during New Year's Eve. You advise them to not leave until the morning but they want to leave anyway.
- Your son no longer wants to be your son, but instead wants to be your daughter.
- Your child is not sure they still believe in God or Jesus.

Next Steps....How Are You Doing With This?

Matthew 28:18-20 - ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- Go...start at home...start with a relationship