

MAKING THE CASE FOR MENTORS



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SNAPPIN' MINISTRIES [http://
snappin.org](http://snappin.org)

Mentor Definition



- A.** One of the definitions of Merriam-Webster Online is, “a trusted counselor or guide.”
- B.** Another definition that comes from Dictionary.com is, “an influential senior sponsor or supporter.”
- C.** While the word’s roots can be found in Greek mythology, its practice can be found throughout human history.

What brought us to this model?



- A. Mission – *“Our pursuit is to continuously support and encourage those living with the daily challenge of parenting a child with special needs so that the genuine love and hope of Jesus will be experienced and shared in their everyday lives.”*
- B. Vision – *“We want every parent of a child with special needs to become a full ambassador of Christ. (We commit ourselves to the spiritual development of parents with children who have special needs.)”*

Biblical Examples

Moses & Joshua

1. We learn in Numbers 11 that Joshua had been an aide to Moses since his youth, so Moses had invested time in Joshua.
2. We learn in Exodus 17 that Moses and Joshua worked as a team to overcome troubles.
3. We also learn throughout Deuteronomy, God order Moses to encourage Joshua and send him forth.
4. As we know, Moses led his people out of Egypt, and in part, because of Moses' mentoring, Joshua led those people into the Promised Land.

Biblical Examples

Naomi & Ruth



1. The entire 4 chapter book of Ruth details the relationship between these 2 women.
2. Naomi clearly warranted much respect as a wife and mother-in-law for Ruth to abandon her chances of an easy remarriage in her homeland.
3. Under Naomi's tutelage, Ruth was able to help both women survive. And she was able to remarry, give birth to a child and be included in the very lineage of the Messiah.

Biblical Examples

Jesus & the Disciples



1. One-of-a-kind Mentor
2. Jesus observed and called others to come along with him.
3. He taught his disciples as they went along the way.
4. He lived life alongside the disciples and shared fellowship with them, allowing them to be eye-witnesses to his modeling.
5. Jesus formed a small group mentoring model.
6. After he modeled, he sent the disciples on a trial run without him.
7. While he was clearly the mentor, he still asked for comfort from the disciples.
8. Please note: He was intentional about pulling away for some time.

The Issues



- A. Faith** - Having a child diagnosed with a special need, more frequently than not, brings parents to a crisis of faith. Mentors help a parent to work through that.
- B. Marriage** - Additional stress is put on a marriage when a child is diagnosed with a special need. Mentors model how to build a solid marriage in spite of adversity.
- C. Disease Management** - Making solid decisions and being a good advocate for our children is difficult. Having the example and coaching of a mentor helps a parent to develop these new skills.
- D. Daily Living** - Even the ordinary can be difficult when raising a child with special needs. Mentors walk shoulder-to-shoulder with other parents, helping them to build endurance in their daily lives.

Go Forth!



- ❧ Find a program – Whether it is the program is SNAPPIN’s or another, making a mentor match available to parents you come into contact with serves the entire family well.
- ❧ Properly Prepare – Our program offers an extensive 3 month training program. This is a vulnerable population. To assure solid guidance, thorough preparation is recommended.
- ❧ Connect! – Everyone has a story to tell. Sharing what God has done in your own personal journey is probably the most effective form of evangelization. Even if it is not in a formal program, connect with another. Let God recycle your challenges for good. And let us know how you’re doing.

Recommended Resources



- ☞ Visit SNAPPIN's "Ministry Moments" blog site to view all of our online pieces on the topic of mentoring at <http://snappinministries.wordpress.com/category/mentoring/>.
- ☞ Visit SNAPPIN's YouTube Channel to watch the series "10 Questions Every Mentor of a Special Needs Parent Should Be Prepared to Face," at <http://www.youtube.com/user/SnappinMinistries/videos>.
- ☞ Mentor Like Jesus by Regi Campbell with Richard Chancy, ©2009 by James R. Campbell, Published by B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee.
- ☞ Authentic Spiritual Mentoring: Nurturing Believers Toward Spiritual Maturity by Larry Kreider, ©2008 by Larry Kreider, Published by Regal from Gospel Light, Ventura, California.
- ☞ Everyone Communicates, Few Connect: What the Most Effective People Do Differently by John C. Maxwell, ©2010 by John C. Maxwell, Published by Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee.
- ☞ Redeeming the Time (www.redeemingthetime.org) with a variety of resources from Edwina Patterson including Following the Shepherd which builds lasting spiritual relationships fostering growth.
- ☞ Parent to Parent of Wisconsin (<http://p2pwi.org/>) (also available nationwide at www.p2pusa.org) Run by Robin Mathea, the Wisconsin program is unique in that it not only offers proven best practices in mentoring, it also features the P.E.A.R. Project (Parents Educated About Research).



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