Walking Life with Youth
Mentoring Approaches and Strategies

presented by Amy Williams
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"God's Hood"
Humboldt Park
www.aHopeDealer.org
BE A LIGHT IN A KID’S DARKNESS.

Through the trauma, anger, pain, fear, abandonment, lost hope...

What it looks like:
• On block every day
• Hoop Nights/Team
• “Open” Door policy
• Safe place to land/hang out
• “Brownie Lady”
• Pizza & Movie nights
• Driving lessons
• Court/Jail visits
• A resource for them

What comes to mind when you hear the word “Mentoring?”
How do you define it?
What key words/phrases come to mind?

MENTORING:

MERRIAM WEBSTER: Someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person.

DICTIONARY.COM:
1. a wise and trusted counselor or teacher
2. an influential senior sponsor or supporter

OXFORD DICTIONARIES: An experienced and trusted adviser
AMY “Hope Dealer” WILLIAMS: Walking life with young people as they journey on their way to discovering
• WHO they are in this world...
• WHY they matter...
• WHAT their God given purpose is!

MENTORING:

The essence of mentoring is the sustained human relationship

- Developing a healthy relationship is more important than teaching specific principles or ideas
- Mentoring has more to do with WHO you are than WHAT you do

MENTORING:

BIBLICAL MENTORS
- Jesus to his Disciples
- Naomi to Ruth (Ruth 1: 6-18)
- Moses to Joshua (Exodus 24:13)
- Paul to Timothy (Acts 16:3)
- Elijah to Elisha (1 Kings 19:16)
- Eli to Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1)

GOOD ADVICE:

It is vital for a mentor to act as a resource broker and show the mentee how to access the services and resources he or she needs than to provide certain professional services.
You aren’t the only mentor...

All kinds of mentors

HOW WE THINK WE COME ACROSS...

WHAT I’M PRETTY SURE I ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE...
What’s missing with impactful mentoring...

My Wife and Kids

- Lack of active listening
- Lack of understanding our role
- Lack of authenticity
- Lack of “realness” about this Christian walk
- Too much control; arrogance
INEFFECTIVE MENTORS

- Emphasize behavior changes over development of mutual trust and respect.
- Attempt to transform or reform the youth by setting goals and tasks early on; adopt a parental or authoritative role in interaction with the youth.
- Have difficulty meeting the youth on a regular basis; demand that the youth play an equal role in initiating contact.
- Don't allow youth to make mistakes without condemning them or reminding them.
- Force feed “religion and Jesus” when not ready.

RED FLAGS FOR MENTORS

- Having sexual thoughts or fantasies.
- Jealous of other youth workers spending time with them.
- Looking for excuses to be together.
- Someone you care about expresses concern about your relationship.
- Flirting and enjoying the power it gives you.
- Feeling self-conscious about how they see you and hoping that you’re making a good impression.
- Probing for sexually explicit personal details under the guise of “counseling” them.
- Rationalizing feelings of guilt that you have about any of the above.

WHEN MENTORING goes really well...

Approaches and Strategies

“Children do not care how much you know until they know how much you care”
What I do is more about building trust and developing a strong relationship than it is about answering questions.

Mentoring is about allowing GOD to shape and mold our youth... we just join the journey!

The mentor must play the supporting role NOT the lead role in the relationship.
What Do You See?
We are in the business of seeing people...especially the unseen.
We have to see people they way God does.

IMPACTFUL MENTORS
understand that...

We are in the business of seeing people...especially the unseen.
We have to see people they way God does.

WE UNDERSTAND:

“You can’t judge a book by its cover but you also can’t judge a book by its first chapter. Whatever that first chapter is, you need to close that chapter and then begin again.”

—Father Greg Boyle, Homeboy Industries

The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.

Plutarch
Mentors allow youth to
Think...
Explore...
Discover...
in a safe place where they
can fail and still feel
valued and worthy!

Giving Advice
- Youth is passive, possibly resistant
- Cuts off further exploration of problem
- Often premature
- Youth doesn’t learn
- Can impose mentor’s solution on youth’s problem
- Does not encourage self-esteem

Youth Solving Problems
- Active youth
- Opens lines of communication
- Youth learn
- Solution belongs to youth
- Fosters self-esteem

When is Giving Advice Appropriate
- If the mentor is an expert in a particular
  field, the youth may benefit from the
  mentor’s specific knowledge and advice.
- If the youth is “stuck” after going through
  the problem-solving process, mentor can
  give advice about how to proceed.
- When sharing your own experiences that
  will help youth reach a solution

“Children must be
taught how to think,
not what to think.”
Margaret Mead
Mentoring is not about being the “answer factory” but to help the mentee arrive at the best solution to the problem at hand. If your mentee is stuck, ask questions or tell stories of similar dilemmas to help focus thinking through the problem and arriving at a suitable answer.

Our main character is Lisette, and she’s facing some tough questions. She and her boyfriend, Jose, have been chatting back and forth all afternoon on Snapchat. But just now, Jose sent her a Snapchat photo of himself with no shirt on, and he dared her to do the same thing. She hadn’t expected that.
This just got a bit more confusing. She knows a lot of her friends send their boyfriends flirtatious and sometimes even downright lewd pictures.

Is it really that big of a deal?

I mean, nobody’s going to see it except Jose. It will be there, and then it will be gone.

But still it doesn’t feel right.

She knows her parents would be crushed if they found out, and she’s not happy that Jose kind of forced the issue.

And as a Christian, she knows it’s not what the Lord would want her to do.

But it’s Jose, and she doesn’t want to do anything to hurt their relationship.

What will she do?
Brainstorm THREE options that Lisette might choose; fill in the left set of brackets.

Pick which ONE option you think Lisette will choose; fill in the single center bracket.

Brainstorm THREE likely consequences of the chosen option; fill in the right set of brackets.

For all three consequences, discuss:
• Is it likely to happen?
• Would it be a desirable outcome?
Add a new detail or piece of information after Step Two to show the twists of real life.

At Step Two, incorporate Scripture into the conversation and ask, “What should Lisette do?”

They are called to INSPIRE young people... and believe in them even when they can't believe in themselves.

“I am not a teacher, but an awakener.”

Robert Frost
We learn from each other... the teacher becomes the student and the student becomes the teacher.

IT’S NOT ABOUT YOU!
You are not God. We serve. He saves.
Every year...
1.2 million children are arrested
500,000 sent to detention

Every night...
57,000 youth are locked up
in 2,000 detention facilities

Imagine If This Crisis Became An Opportunity
Text Everyyouth to 22828
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