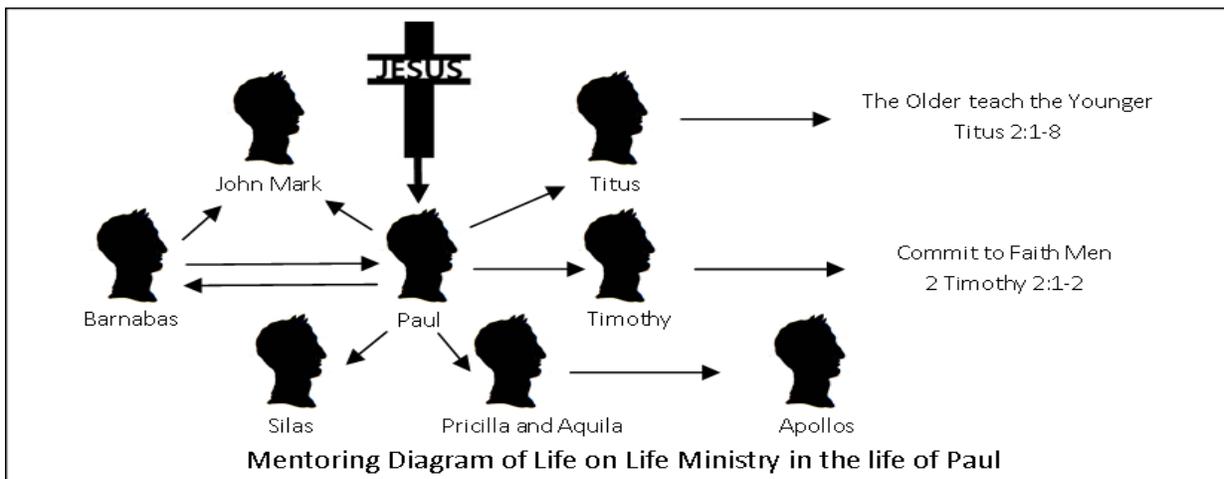


Making Disciples As You Go
ABF Lesson 5: Basics of Mentoring
Life on Life Ministry

I. Introduction:

Last week we began to consider some of the fundamentals of mentoring. At its essence mentoring is nothing more than you and I doing what we are already doing but just being **INTENTIONAL** to take someone else along with us on the **JOURNEY**.

Mentoring is at the heart of Biblical Discipleship. In fact, one **CANNOT** make disciples without it. Notice the following diagram:



Today we are going to consider what is necessary in “Life on Life” mentoring and disciple-making. This morning we are going to look at two pictures that the Apostle Paul uses in 1 Thessalonians: that of a nursing mother and that of a hard working father.

II. Life on Life Ministry:

➤ See 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Mentor like a Nursing Mother:

Note two things here:

1. Paul describes a nursing mother as “Gentle”. This has the idea of “Placid or Mild, the opposite of acting **HARSHLY**. It pictures the disposition of a mother **FEEDING** her children from her own **BODY**.”
2. The relationship includes an essential **EMOTIONAL** component to it.

Q. What are the mentoring implications concerning the mentor’s personal spiritual life?

Q. Why does Biblical mentoring require an emotional component? What can happen if this is lacking?

Biblical “Compassion” includes the idea of having your **HEART** go out to others in such a way as to **MOVE** for their relief. It speaks of **SEEING** life from another’s perspective and **FEELING** what others feel.

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:14)

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. (Mark 6:34)

➤ See Mark 9:20-29

Mentor like a Hardworking Father:

The expression “labor and toil” in verse 9 carries the idea of working to **EXHAUSTION**. Paul was bi-vocational working as a tent maker and a church planter. How much mentoring might Paul have done with a needle and thread in his hands?

Q. Think about one thing that you are already doing in your life. How might you be able to use that in a mentoring relationship with someone else?

Verses 9 and 10 make it plain that the Thessalonica believers were eyewitnesses to Paul’s hard work and character. This strongly suggests that he lived his life **IN FRONT** of them. This brings with it a sense of transparency and vulnerability.

Paul uses three words in describing how he, as a father to his children called them to walk in a manner worthy of God:

1. To “Exhort” has the idea of coming alongside someone to **SUPPORT** them or help them.
2. To “Encourage” has the specific idea of coming alongside to **SPEAK** kindly to or comforting to another.
3. To “Charge” has the idea of to **INSIST** upon or to strongly **URGE** someone to do something.

Q. What are some possible scenarios where one might have to exhort someone, encourage someone, or charge someone? How might one do all three in a single circumstance?

III. Conclusion:

Paul says that Biblical mentoring is about the more mature believer making the ingested Word of God understandable and applicable to another so they can grow by it like a mother nursing her child. Furthermore, like a father to his children, it's also about recognizing that while we can't make other people's choices for them you can come alongside them with wisdom, support, and truth to help them pattern their thinking after not only yours, but yours and Christ's. These two metaphors form the pattern of life on life mentoring.

IV. Homework:

Memory Verse for the week:

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. (1 Thessalonians 2:8)