



MENTOR GUIDELINES

A FUEL MENTOR IS SOMEONE WHO...

- IS INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT BOTH THE BIG AND THE LITTLE STUFF
- IT'S OKAY TO BE MAD, SAD OR NOT COPING IN FRONT OF
- GIVES ENCOURAGEMENT AND CELEBRATES LITTLE SUCCESSES
- KEEPS CONFIDENCE
- DOESN'T GET SHOCKED OR SURPRISED AT ANYTHING
- LISTENS

THE ROLE OF A FUEL MENTOR IS TO ACT AS A SUPPORT PERSON FOR A YOUNG PERSON ON THE COURSE. YOUR PRIMARY JOB IS TO MEET REGULARLY WITH THEM, AND TO SPEND TIME LISTENING TO THEM AS THEY EXPLORE IDEAS AND FEELINGS DURING THEIR YEAR. THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT AND A FRIEND TO THEM.

EVEN IF THERE WAS NO OTHER OUTCOME, YOUR WORK WITH YOUR MENTEE HAS BEEN A SUCCESS IF THEY:

- FEEL LISTENED TO AND UNDERSTOOD
- HAVE HAD A 'SAFE' PLACE TO DISCUSS IDEAS AND HOW THEY ARE FEELING

YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED TO TURN THEM INTO AN 'IDEAL' CHRISTIAN. YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS FOR THEM. GIVE ADVICE SPARINGLY.

GETTING STARTED

FOR A SESSION

- SET ASIDE SOMEWHERE THAT IS FAIRLY FREE FROM INTERRUPTIONS
- USE AN INFORMAL SETTING
- FOOD AND COFFEE ARE GOOD!

DURING A SESSION

- START BY ASKING 'WHAT'S HAPPENING?', PICK UP ON ANY ISSUES THAT ARISE
- ENCOURAGE THEM TO BRING THEIR JOURNAL AND SHARE SOME OF THEIR ENTRIES WITH YOU
- IF IT HASN'T COME UP ALREADY, TRY TO TOUCH ON ONE OF THE 'BIG SIX'— HOW IS IT WITH: SCHOOL/ WORK, RELATIONSHIPS, FAMILY, CHURCH, GOD, FRIENDS
- SOMETIMES IT WILL BE APPROPRIATE TO COME TO A CONCLUSION OR PLAN OR ACTION. AT OTHER TIMES, JUST LISTEN

GETTING STARTED

- AT YOUR FIRST SESSION DISCUSS THE GROUND RULES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIP

WHAT IF?

WE STRIKE A PROBLEM THAT'S TOO BIG FOR ME?

YOUR LOCAL FUEL COORDINATOR HAS THE PHONE NUMBER OF A QUALIFIED COUNSELLOR (THEY WILL GIVE THIS TO YOU BEFORE YOU START).

- IF YOU NEED ADVICE ON A SITUATION: RING EITHER THE FUEL COORDINATOR OR THE COURSE COORDINATOR
- IF YOU UNCOVER AN ISSUE THAT YOU SUSPECT THEY SHOULD SEE A COUNSELLOR ABOUT, YOU SHOULD ENCOURAGE YOUR MENTEE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE COUNSELLOR. YOU SHOULD TRY TO HELP THEM GET THERE. COMMON ISSUES ARE: AN ABUSE DISCLOSURE, DEPRESSION OR ANXIETY, EATING DISORDERS, OR ANGER. EVEN THOUGH THESE ISSUES WILL OFTEN EMERGE AS A RESULT OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MENTEE, YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED TO COUNSEL THEM, PROVIDE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT, AND PLEASE REFER THEM ON.

MY MENTEE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE A COUNSELLOR?

ASK YOUR MENTEE'S PERMISSION TO SEEK ADVICE FROM THE FUEL COORDINATOR. IF, IN YOUR OPINION, THE RISK OF DEATH OR INJURY TO OTHERS (OR TO THE STUDENT THEMSELVES) EXISTS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE FUEL COORDINATOR IMMEDIATELY WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR MENTEE'S PERMISSION.

MY MENTEE SEEMS TO NO LONGER BELIEVE IN GOD?

A CRISIS OF FAITH OFTEN OCCURS AS PEOPLE BEGIN TO EXPLORE AND QUESTION THINGS THEY HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN FOR GRANTED (OR HAVE INHERITED FROM THEIR PARENTS). REMEMBER: 'UNSHOCKABLE / UNSURPRISABLE'! A GREAT LINE TO RESPOND WITH IS: 'TELL ME ABOUT THE GOD YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING IN'.

THEY ARE INVOLVED IN SIN?

REMEMBER THAT WHAT YOU MAY FIND PERSONALLY OFFENSIVE, OR OUTSIDE OF YOUR OWN TRADITIONS, IS NOT ALWAYS SINFUL.

IT'S ALWAYS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT OTHER CHRISTIANS HAVE ALREADY CONDEMNED THEM ABOUT IT. OFTEN YOUR MENTEE WILL HAVE BEEN BEATING THEMSELVES UP ABOUT IT AS WELL. BE CAUTIONS ABOUT JOINING IN. DON'T IGNORE THE ISSUE/S, BUT MAKE YOUR TIMES TOGETHER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR MENTEE TO EXPLORE THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT THE ISSUE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT TO TURN THEM INTO A 'MODEL CHRISTIAN'. IT IS SIMPLY TO BE THERE FOR THEM, AND RECOGNISE THEIR RIGHT TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOISES IN LIFE. TO BE IN A POSITION TO EXPRESS OUR OWN OPINION IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO EARN OFF YOUR MENTEE BY THE QUALITY OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM. UNTIL THEY HAVE GIVEN YOU THAT PERMISSION, PRAY A LOT.

THEY BECOME UNHAPPY WITH THE FUEL COURSE?

ENCOURAGE THEM TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS TO THE FUEL COORDINATOR. IF THAT DOESN'T HELP, ASK THEIR PERMISSION TO APPROACH THE COORDINATOR YOURSELF. AT THIS STAGE, WE WILL USUALLY INITIATE A

MEDIATION PROCESS. YOUR ROLE IN THE PROCESS IS TO ACT AS AN ADVOCATE AND SUPPORT FOR YOUR MENTEE.

THEY WANT TO DROP OUT?

IF IT'S BECAUSE OF A GRIEVANCE, USE THE PROCESS ABOVE TO TRY AND RESOLVE IT. IF IT IS FOR OTHER REASONS, MAKE SURE THE FUEL COORDINATOR IS AWARE OF THE SITUATION. IT IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO ACT AS A MEDIATOR BETWEEN YOUR MENTEE AND THE COURSE TO FACILITATE THEIR WITHDRAWAL.

WHAT ABOUT ANOTHER COURSE?

YOUR 'FORMAL' RESPONSIBILITIES FINISH AT THE END OF THE YEAR. WE WILL HAVE SOME SORT OF CELEBRATION TO MARK THE END OF THE COURSE, AND WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE. IF YOUR RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN A SUCCESS OVER THE YEAR, NO DOUBT YOU WILL HAVE ESTABLISHED A NEW FRIENDSHIP. AND ONGOING ARRANGEMENT PAST THE END OF THE YEAR WOULD NORMALLY BE AT THE INITIATIVE OF YOUR MENTEE, AND WOULD BE ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.

IS IT APPROPRIATE TO HELP FINANCES?

IF YOUR MENTEE IS STRUGGLING TO RAISE THE FUNDS FOR THEIR IMMERSION RETREAT TRIP, YOUR INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE WELCOMES. IF YOU CHOOSE TO GIVE MONEY TOWARDS THEIR TRIP YOURSELF, OR FROM SOURCES WITHIN YOUR NETWORKS, IT SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO THE FUEL COORDINATOR.

CONTACTS

LOCAL FUEL COORDINATOR	
NATIONAL FUEL COORDINATOR	LLOYD MARTIN (04) 569-4559 PO BOX 6834, MARION SQUARE, WELLINGTON L.MARTIN@CLEAR.NET.NZ