

Momentum/Friction

Module: Community Action

Lesson 4: Mentorship

Objectives

- Students will understand the need for a good mentor.
- Students will identify the qualities of a good mentor.
- Students will be encouraged to find good mentors in their community to help them develop characteristics and ministries that will lead people to Christ.

Materials Needed

- ☐ Handout “Elijah and Elisha question sheet” (one per student)
- ☐ Handout “Mordecai and Esther question sheet” (one per student)
- ☐ Pen/pencil per student
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Whiteboard/chart paper

Minds On

Ask the group for a volunteer. Send the volunteer out of the room. When the volunteer is outside, hide an object. Once the object is hidden, ask the volunteer to come back in. When the volunteer re-enters the room, blindfold him/her. Then tell him/her what s/he is looking for and give him/her a few minutes to look for the item. Nobody is allowed to help them except to stop them from hurting themselves. After a short amount of time (and before s/he is actually able to find the item) stop the exercise. Then send him/her out again. Hide the object again. When the volunteer returns, tell him/her they have to find the object again, but this time give them a coach. The coach knows where the object is and is allowed to use the words "hot" or "cold". Hopefully this time the volunteer will be able to find the object.

Action

Say something like: *When we try to do things on our own it can be difficult. Sometimes we need someone to coach or guide us along the way. Last week we talked about musicians and athletes. All musicians and athletes need to be coached or mentored by someone who is knowledgeable and/or proficient in the field to be good at it. The best teachers are not only people who can do something, but are people who understand how they do it and why they are effective. This is true not only for musicians and athletes but also for Christians. If we are going to be effective in reaching our communities for Christ we need to find mentors who are already have effective ministries in the community and learn from them.*

Divide the group in two (if there are more than eight you may want to divide it into four). Give one group the handout on Elijah and Elisha and the other group the handout on Mordecai and Esther (if you've divided them into four, give two groups Elijah and Elisha and two groups Mordecai and Esther). Give them some time to read the passages of Scripture and answer the questions. Then have one of the groups teach the story to the other group and then switch. Make sure each group quickly summarizes the story, explains what made the mentor an effective mentor, and what the protégé learned and the result of the relationship.

Consolidate/Debrief

After each group has presented ask all the students to brainstorm some people/organizations that are effectively ministering in the community. Write down their answers on whiteboard/chart paper. You may want to do some research on local ministries, such as churches that offer "Out of the Cold", local food banks, teen counselling programs, pregnancy crisis centres etc., so you can help them with ideas if they can't think of anything immediately. Ask the students how they know or why they believe these ministries are effective.

Next, brainstorm some ways the students think they can effectively help these local ministries. Ask how they think they can effectively enter a mentor relationship. This may be an effective time to check back with the list from lesson one and the papers from lesson two and discuss how they can help those people or address those issues. Close in prayer asking God to lead the students' hearts so they know which ministries they should get involved with and how they can best serve those ministries.

Handout: Lesson 4

Elijah and Elisha Question Sheet

Read 1 Kings 19:16-21.

- 1) What is Elisha's reaction when he sees Elijah?

- 2) What can we learn from Elisha's initial reaction to Elijah?

Read 2 Kings 2:1-12

- 3) Why does Elisha persistently follow Elijah even when Elijah tells him to stay behind?

- 4) What does Elisha ask for from Elijah?

- 5) What modern day parallels can we draw from the story of Elijah and Elisha?

Elisha goes on to be one of the great prophets of the Old Testament. This is largely due to the fact that he was mentored by one of the greatest prophets.

Handout: Lesson 4

Mordecai and Esther Question Sheet

Read Esther 2:5-8.

1) What do we learn about the relationship between Mordecai and Esther?

Read Esther 2:19-20

2) What do Esther's actions tell us about her relationship with Mordecai?

Read Esther 4:1-16

3) What do Mordecai's actions at the beginning of chapter 4 tell us about his respect for rules and authority?

4) What does Mordecai want Esther to do?

5) Why is Esther afraid to do what he asks?

6) What does Mordecai's response tell you about his trust in God?

7) What does Esther's response to Mordecai tell you about her trust in God?

8) What is a modern day parallel for this story?

Esther goes to the king and ends up saving all the Jews from being executed.

Elijah and Elisha Answers

- 1) Elisha asks to say goodbye to his family and then follow him.
- 2) We should be willing to follow after and learn from mentors.
- 3) Elisha persistently follows Elijah because he loves and respects him and wants to be with him when he goes to the Lord.
- 4) He asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit.
- 5) They can make many different parallels. Anything where a more experienced person mentors the younger and the younger is eagerly devoted to the older would be appropriate.

Esther and Mordecai

- 1) Mordecai is her cousin but raised her like a father would a daughter.
- 2) Esther respects and trusts Mordecai and does what he tells her even though she is not a child anymore.
- 3) Mordecai has a great respect for rules and authority and refuses to break the spirit of the rules not just the rules.
- 4) Mordecai wants Esther to go to the king and plead for mercy for her and her people.
- 5) Esther is afraid to do this because anyone who enters the king's presence without being summoned will be put to death unless the king extends the gold sceptre.
- 6) Mordecai believes that deliverance will come for the Jews whether it is through Esther or another means. This demonstrates a strong faith in God.
- 7) Esther's request for prayer and fasting shows she believes in a God who answers prayer and the fact that she is willing to go even though her life is in danger demonstrates that she believes that God will take care of her.
- 8) This is an interesting one for modern parallels because probably nobody will have the slaughter of a race in their hands. Paralleling the relationship of Mordecai and Esther to familial relationships is good. Maybe older siblings or friends in school situations and treatment of certain people groups in a school/community could be a good parallel.