

# **I Dare You**

## **Module Title: Unbreakable**

### **Lesson 4: Mentors**

#### **Objectives:**

Students will

- Explore the meaning and importance of having a mentor
- Learn about qualities of a mentor
- Define steps to finding a Christian mentor
- Consider Biblical examples of mentoring relationships

#### **Materials Needed:**

- ☐ Large sheets of paper, one per small group and one to compile answers at the end
- ☐ Markers or other colouring tools
- ☐ Copy of “Quick Smarts” handout for each group
- ☐ List of various animals on scraps of paper

## **Minds On:**

To group students together, hand them a scrap of paper with an animal on it. Have students spread out around the room and turn off the lights instructing them to begin making the noise their animal would make. While making this noise have them move around the room and find all the other people making the same animal noise as them. Those people will become their group members.

Once the youth are in groups, distribute a copy of the “Quick Smarts” page to each group, and give them about 5 minutes to complete it. They should not be able to answer all of the questions but encourage them to at least attempt all of them. After about 5 minutes have the group come back together and compare how many questions each group answered correctly.

Say something like: Some of these questions were easy and some of them were hard. What would you have needed to complete all of these questions correctly? Students may answer with “more knowledge”, “someone who knows the answers”, etc.

Say something like: It’s impossible for us to know the answers to all of these questions. We can’t be expected to know everything about everything, we can only know as much as we’ve been taught. When we get stuck, we need others who have been there before to teach us what we need to know or show us how to do something. That way you can watch them, do it with them, do it while they supervise and eventually do it on your own.

This principle of you watch, you do it with me, you do it I watch, you do it on your own, applies to all areas of our lives, including our walk with God. We only know so much about God and have only experienced Him in a few ways and it’s important for us to have people who are wiser and more mature in their faith in our lives. Those kinds of people can help us answer questions we have, give us guidance or advice about tough situations and point us to God by their example of how they live out their faith. These people are called mentors.

## Action:

In the same small groups, give students one large sheet of paper and a regular sheet of paper. Have students read the following passages about mentoring relationships and have them determine from these passages what a mentor does; one the regular sized sheet of paper, have them list 1 or 2 qualities for each.

For Example:

Passage	Qualities
2 Kings 2:8-15	- Mentors lead by example
1 Tim 1:18-19	- Instruct for leadership - Encourage mentored in their faith
1 Tim 6:11-12, 17-21	- Advise

**Make a Mentor:** Once students have finished reading these passages have them create their own mentor on the large sheet of paper. Have the group come up with a list of qualities they would look for in a mentor and represent each quality with a picture or symbol. For example, wings might represent shelter or protection, a book might represent knowledge, a wrapped gift for a giving heart, etc. Students can create these symbols in such a way that they form the shape of a person or they can simply have the pictures represented in sporadic fashion on the page. As students are brainstorming ideas for various qualities have them look up the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22), Characteristics of Love (1 Cor 13) and the Armour of God (Eph 6) if they need help coming up with qualities.

Give students about 20 minutes to complete the chart and create their mentors, then bring them back to the large group. Have each group share the qualities they chose in a mentor, the corresponding symbol and why they chose that symbol. On a large sheet, compile a list of the most common qualities stated by the groups.

Say something like: There are many different qualities that a mentor can possess, and each mentoring relationship will be different depending on the student and the mentor. It's important to remember that a mentor needs to fit with your personality and be someone you feel comfortable with. Mentors can be anyone; church members, (extended) family members, family friends, youth leaders, pastors, etc. It's important that the mentor be older and more mature in their faith – years will give them experience and a different perspective when they aren't at the same stage of life as you. It's also important that this person

is a committed follower of Christ, and is firm in their faith, despite anything that has happened in their life.

### **Consolidate/Debrief:**

Have students share the qualities they came up with from the stories of Elijah and Timothy.

Say something like: Mentoring relationships in the Bible were different than they are today. Today students have to go to school and adults have jobs they have to do. Students can't just drop out of school to follow someone around all day learning from them. While this might have been a great way of teaching and learning in Biblical times, we have to adapt it to fit our lives today. What might a mentoring relationship look like today?

Some suggestions:

- Both sides must be willing to be in a mentoring relationship; willing to be open and honest
- Respect for one another, careful with questions, don't disclose answers
- Knowing you'll dig deep to the tough stuff
- Have some fun together as well, just doing life (mentor as an example of Christian living in day to day life)
- Meet together in a small group or one to one basis regularly
- Mutual respect of time commitments and boundaries

Hand out the "How to Start a Mentoring Relationship" Handout, and go over the steps. Spend time in prayer to close; asking God to make students aware of those in their lives who could be a mentor and for God to bring those people into the lives of students.