

TIPS FOR ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

The purpose of your one-on-one meetings with your mentee is to build a more personal relationship with her. There are two types of one-on-one meetings you will have during your mentoring year: Initial One-on-One Meeting and Ongoing One-on-One Meetings.

Initial One-on-One Meeting

This one-on-one meeting is for the purpose of meeting your mentee and helping her understand the commitment she is making. It will help her feel more comfortable before the first group meeting and allow you to get to know her a little better. It will also help you assess if this is a good season in her life to make the time commitment required.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR YOUR ONE-ON-ONE MEETING:

- Ask her to share a little about herself - family, growing-up years, job (if working), commitments and activities she is involved in
- Share a little about yourself. You don't have to go into a lot of detail because you will be sharing your story at your first meeting.

DISCUSS:

- What she desires for God to do in her life through this mentoring journey
- Her expectations of you as a mentor
- Time margin in her life

COMMITMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING:

- Monthly meetings
- Monthly Assignments which include 1.) reading a book and writing a one-page summary of your takeaways 2.) memorizing scripture 3.) peer exercise to encourage building community and accountability with the other women 4.) marriage focus (for married couples) to encourage communication with her spouse
- Weekend retreat within the first 2 months

- Bring a copy of the Mentee Covenant and Mentee Homework Assignment when you meet (copies of the assignment sheet and covenant for each of your women can be downloaded from the First Meeting Resources). Go over the covenant and assignment with her and make sure she understands the commitment she is making. Remind her to bring it to the first meeting signed by her and her husband (if married).
- Be creative. Develop any other tools to use to gain more information about your mentee (i.e. Fun Facts Sheet). This is your time to get to know your mentee.
- Let her know you will follow-up this one-on-one meeting with an email to give first meeting date and location, retreat dates, homework assignment reminder, etc.

Ongoing One-on-One Meetings

At this point, you have seen your mentee in the group setting, you have heard her story and she has heard yours. Now you are going to make yourself available to her and focus all your energy on her for an hour or so. This will give you time to talk about things that she might not feel comfortable talking about in the group or about specific issues in her life.

PLAN

Set a place and time that will work for both of your schedules. If she has young children and cannot get a babysitter, either go to her house during nap time or meet somewhere where there is a playground to occupy the child while you talk.

PREPARE

Set aside time before your scheduled meeting to read over the mentee's application, expectations of the group and her testimony. Refresh yourself on everything you have learned about her so far.

PRAY

For this woman and your meeting, asking the Lord to take over and do what He wants to do. Ask the Lord to fill your heart with love for her and to give you ears to hear what she is saying and what is going on deep in her heart, and for wisdom to share what God wants her to hear.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK:

- How do you like the group so far? Is it what you expected?
- How is God using our time together in your life?
- Is there anything going on in your life that you have not felt free to talk about within the group?
- Is there anything you want to ask me?

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Remember, the goal here is to start a personal relationship ... a real friendship. If she leaves these times together knowing that you love her, that you listened to her and that you understand her a little better, then you have accomplished something purposeful and intentional. It is always good to remember that the one-on-one is about building relationship and being a guide, not about fixing someone or looking to give advice. There is great potential for meaningful and fruitful relationship between mentor and mentee, and it can be a beautiful place for incredible growth.