

MEETING GUIDE - MENTOR TRAINING 2

This session is about helping your guys prepare to tell their faith stories in their groups. Joe Erhmann, author of *Inside Out Coaching* says we can't help anyone with their lives until we have a coherent narrative of our own. We must be able to look at the positive and negative turns in our story and see how God was there . . . how He used the events in our lives to shape us into the likeness of His son, at least to the degree He has so far. This session is dedicated to helping your mentors develop their coherent narratives.

Objectives: To help mentors identify the positive and negative turns in their story and know how to explain the ways God has used even the negative turns to bring them closer to Him and to impact others. And to communicate that telling their story in an honest, transparent way that gives God glory and sets the tone and direction for the rest of the mentoring season.

Desired Mentor Takeaway: "Wow, God really has been present in my life. Through the good times and especially the bad. I can't wait to share my story with my mentees so that they can learn from what I've done and grow closer to God."

MEETING GUIDE

Below is a suggested timeline for this meeting. We've assumed a 2-hour evening scenario, but feel free to make yours whatever you want.

7:00 Regroup

Welcome everybody back and regroup by asking something like this:

"What are you most excited about as you step into this season as a mentor?"

Then go around the table until everyone has shared. Limit everyone to 1-2 minutes.

Then pray and ask God to help these guys grasp the different ways He has moved in their lives as they develop their stories.

7:15 Intro to Telling Your Story

Start by explaining that tonight's focus is on crafting their story. Then explain that there are three reasons this is so critical to their role as mentor . . .

- Your story reflects your faith *in* and relationship *with* Jesus. It's what gives you credibility, moral authority, and sets you up for success as a mentor.
- Transparency and vulnerability in *your* faith story gives your guys *permission* to be transparent and vulnerable in theirs. What's hidden can never be fixed. So modeling transparency and sharing your stuff makes it safe and okay for them to share their stuff.

- People can argue with your theology, they can criticize your behavior, but *no one can argue with your story*. It is your unique experience with the Father that fuels your faith and will empower you to help your guys open up and grow.

Ask if anyone has questions before moving on.

7:25 Story Workshop

Hand out the worksheet on Telling Your Faith Story and say something like this:

*"So now we're going to take a few minutes to read this handout. Then we're each going to create our story timeline. Turn to a clean sheet in your journal or take out a piece of paper and replicate the 'decade by decade' graph you see on the handout. Now pray and ask God to bring to mind your life's most important **turning points or catalytic events**. Put numbers on your graph and make notes to correspond with the number. Write down enough words so you'll easily remember what the event was when you work on this later."*

7:55 Story Sharing

After everyone has had enough time to make good progress (even if they're not fully finished), go around the table and have each man share. Move as quickly as you can so you won't run out of time, but don't 'quench the Spirit.' God may move in a big-time way as your guys reflect on their lives and all our Father has done for them. Start by saying something like this:

"Now, let's go around the table and each share one of our positive events and one of our negative events that God eventually redeemed. Who wants to go first?"

When everyone has shared, say something like this:

"Thanks for sharing guys. Your assignment is to continue to work through the 'turns' in your life and to finish preparing to tell your story. In your mentoring group, we'll ask you to tell, not read your story. But a lot of guys have found it helpful to write their stories out in full. What a wonderful gift to have your full-on faith story to share with your family when the time and situation is right."

8:30 How to Be a Mentor / Q&A

Go over the How to Be a Mentor handout, summarizing the main points on the recap page. Then allow them to ask any questions they have about the process, the expectations or the requirements.

8:45 Conclusion

Thank them for their commitment to the training process. Depending on how you're creating groups, either remind them when the mentee draft will be or remind them when they should receive a list of their mentees. Lastly remind them of the time and place of the Kickoff Meeting.

8:50 Pray

Pray for each guy and yourself. Thanking God for both the positive and negative turns in their lives and for the way He will use these guys and their stories to impact the men in their groups.

9:00 Adjourn