

2016-2017

8th Grade

# Mentor Book

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# You Are My Disciples

**Welcome!!** This booklet is meant to be completed with your mentor in correlation with confirmation at Bethel Lutheran. By now, you are probably looking forward to spending your second year together growing in faith. Now that you are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, there are a few more modules for you to work through. Thanks for your willingness to learn together. This booklet is designed to facilitate conversation and help you both learn about aspects of your faith life. Here's what is expected of you:

## Expectations of Mentors

\*Attend future mentor meeting at the church.

**Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm** – Funeral Mentor Event

\*Meet with student at least five times during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year to complete the four modules and one mentor event on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

\*Be the adult in the relationship – if you have not heard from the student - check in with him or her.

\*Attend worship together.

\*Realize that the student has picked you as an important, trusted and admired Christian adult. Please, take that seriously. If you can, attend their extra-curricular events at school, write them a letter or postcard to encourage them (8<sup>th</sup> grade is not an easy time), take them out for ice cream, pray for them, etc.

## Expectations of students

\*Meet with your mentor at least five times during your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year to complete the four modules plus one mentor event. Mentor event is scheduled for:

**Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**

\*Call to set up the five times to meet.

\*Realize that your mentor may be unsure how to be comfortable with a junior high youth. Greet them when you see them, smile and wave. Keep your mentor in your prayers.

\*Return your completed mentor booklets to the pastors by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

There are four “modules”—conversation guides and short projects, to complete in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They are listed below with a short description or tips for completion of each step. There could be some prep involved with each, so read this overview first before you dive in.

## Modules – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Year

### 1) Worship

- Attend three worship services together
- Discuss the variety of worship services at Bethel. The “Gathering” is generally when the welcome to worship; this could involve prayers, a confession and hymn singing. The “word” section of the service begins usually when someone reads from the Bible. This is the learning section. The “Meal” we celebrate is communion, the sacrament which binds us together. This could be prayers, reciting a creed, passing the peace, etc. Even if there is not communion, are there other elements after you learn something before the “sending”?
- Study the sanctuary of the church and learn about its symbols.
- Discuss the seasons of the church year.
- Spend time sharing about your worship and church-going life together.

### 2) Daily Living

- Talk about prayer and devotion practices.
- Discuss the way your church ministers to its members.
- Attend a regular meeting of the Planning Council together.

3) God, Jesus, Holy Spirit—The Trinity

- Questions will walk you through questions about Jesus and why we follow him.
- Discuss your questions about the Holy Spirit.

4) Death & Dying: Funeral Mentor Event

- Attend the mentor event together at Vertin Munson. We will meet at church first, then proceed to the funeral home together.
- Debrief and follow the questions in this book to talk about your experiences of death and dying.

**We appreciate you!** Thank you for your willingness to share and learn together. May God bless your conversations.

## PRE-MODULE ONE- GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you're working with the same mentor as last year, skip to page 7.

1) Full Name

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Six words that describe me pretty well include:

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

3) My favorite food

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

4) One of my favorite places to go:

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

5) If I want to relax, I:

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

6) A person I enjoy spending time with

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

7) Something I like about my church:

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

8) Something I like about myself:

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

9) Something I like about the age I am:

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

*"And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us." 1 John 3:23-24*

- 10) One of the best days of my life was:  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) If I could travel anywhere in the world (all expenses paid), I would go:  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
I would bring \_\_\_\_\_ with me (name a person):  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) So far, on life's journey, one of the biggest challenges I've had to face was:  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Living the Christian life can be a challenge because:  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) One question I have about God is:  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) Name someone you trust:  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) To trust someone is to:  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) Have you always been a churchgoer?  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) If not, how did you get involved in a church:  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6*

19) What do you hope will happen during this time?

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

20) What are you worried about regarding this process?

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRE-MODULE TWO – GETTING BETTER AQUAINTED

1) What is your favorite memory? Why?

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Who are the three most important people in your life right now?

Mentor: 1

2

3

Student: 1

2

3

3) If you could have one super hero ability, what would it be?

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

4) What do you think is the coolest/most fun job?

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

5) When you were a kid, what did you most want to be when you grew up?

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

6) Has that changed?

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

7) If you knew today was your last day on earth, what would you do?

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

8) If you could relive one day of your life, what would it be and why?

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_



- 9) What's your favorite activity to do? Has this changed since last year?  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) What do you look for in a friend?  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) What's your favorite part of church?  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) If you could ask God one question and get an answer, what would it be?  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) When was one time you got angry at God or questioned whether God existed?  
Mentor  
  
Student
- 14) What helped you get through that time?  
Mentor  
  
Student

## ➔MODULE TWO – WORSHIP

1) Attend three worship services together. Discuss your impressions. It may be helpful to attend different worship services and styles. What questions, thoughts do you have about what was said and done?

What do you think the purpose of worship is?

What was the message/theme of the first service you attended together?

What was the message/theme of the second service you attended together?

What was the message/theme of the third service you attended together?

In what ways does worship affect your day-to-day life?

In what ways does worship affect your relationship with Jesus?

2) At Bethel, we have three kinds of worship services. Our 9:00 am worship service in the sanctuary is traditional. Our 11:00 am worship service is 'Come As You Are'. Wednesdays at 6:45 pm, we worship camp-style. Using a bulletin, identify what takes place within each component.

Gathering at 9 am

Word at 9 am

Meal at 9 am

Sending at 9 am

---

Gathering at 11 am

Word at 11 am

Meal at 11 am

Sending at 11 am

---

Gathering on Wednesday

Word on Wednesday

Meal on Wednesday

Sending at Wednesday

---

What are the similarities/differences in the three worship services?

Which kind of worship do you enjoy the most? What is it about that worship that makes the difference for you?

What would a perfect worship space look like and feel like to you?

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20*

3) Study the sanctuary of your church. Identify as many Christian symbols as you can and discuss what significance they hold in the worship life of the congregation.

4) Below are the seasons of the church year.

ADVENT- What happens in advent?

How do you prepare for the Christmas season?

How does the church prepare?

CHRISTMAS- How long does the Christmas season (different from Advent) last?

What biblical events are included in the Christmas season?

What Christmas traditions do you have?

What Christmas traditions does the church have?

EPIPHANY- What happens on Epiphany?

LENT- How long is lent?

What starts the Lenten season?

What happens on each of these days:

- Palm Sunday
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday

What experiences do you have of Holy Week? How did it impact you?

Why is Good Friday important?

EASTER- What event happens on Easter Sunday?

Why is Easter important?

What traditions do you have on Easter?

PENTECOST- What happens on the day of Pentecost in the Bible? Why is it important?

What does the event of Pentecost signify the beginning of?

5) How long have you attended church?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

6) What do you enjoy about church? What do you not enjoy about church?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

- 7) If a friend asked me, "What difference does going to your church make in your life?" I'd say.....  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) A) A person at my church who helps me feel welcome is:  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- B) How are you welcomed by that person?  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Sometimes I wish my church would....  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) One question or concern I have about my church is:  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) I think Jesus would say that the purpose for the church is to...  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Something my church might do to improve:  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) During worship I feel close to God when:  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) A hymn or song that has special meaning for me is...  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

*"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."  
 1 Corinthians 12:27*

Close your time with each of you saying a short prayer asking God to be with you in the confirmation journey and thanking God for your partner in this process.

You may use the following prayer if you are uncomfortable with spontaneous prayer:

**Dear God, we ask that the Holy Spirit would guide and direct our relationship. Help us develop a relationship that is grounded in you. Thank you for this time together. Be with us each day, at school, at play, at home, at work. Keep us safe until we come together again. Amen.**

You may also use the prayer phrases at the back of this book to complete a prayer.

## ➔MODULE TWO – DAILY LIVING - Life in the Trenches as a disciple

- 1) Share with each other how and when you normally pray:  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) How might daily prayer affect your attitude toward the events of the day?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Is it difficult to maintain the practice of daily prayer? If so, why?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Decide together on a time each day when both of you can set aside a few minutes for prayer.  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) How does it feel when you pray?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) What might make it easier or more comfortable to pray?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Read Matthew 25:31-46. What do you think Jesus was saying in these verses?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) How is being a disciple important after you leave the church building?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) What are some ministries that Bethel does within it's walls?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) What are some ministries Bethel does beyond its walls?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Is there overlap between the two?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_



*“For you did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” John 15:16*

12) What are some ways that you minister to others already?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

13) What are some new ways that you could minister to others?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

14) Read Ephesians 4:1-6. What is it that we share as Christians in this congregation?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

15) Why do people go to a church?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

16) Have you ever gone “church shopping?” What did you learn?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

17) Discuss how you would respond to this statement: “Somebody can be a good Christian without being part of a church.”

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

18) Attend a regular meeting of the Planning Council (the first Tuesday of each month.) Discuss what you experience there, your impressions, your thoughts, your questions.

Student:

Mentor:

19) What board would you most enjoy serving on?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

20) Does the church do more or less “behind the scenes” work than you thought it would do?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

21) Bethel's mission statement is...

What does it mean to you?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean for your daily life?

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Close your time with each of you saying a short prayer asking God to be with you in the confirmation journey and thanking God for your partner in this process.

You may use the following prayer if you are uncomfortable with spontaneous prayer:

**Dear God, we ask that the Holy Spirit would guide and direct our relationship. Help us develop a relationship that is grounded in you. Thank you for this time together. Be with us each day, at school, at play, at home, at work. Keep us safe until we come together again. Amen.**

You may also use the prayer phrases at the back of this book to complete a prayer.

## ➔MODULE THREE – GOD, JESUS, HOLY SPIRIT – THE TRINITY

1) Jesus is the Son of God. (Circle number)

I doubt it! 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 I totally agree!

To say that Jesus is the “Son of God” means that...

2) Jesus is the Lord and Leader of my life.

I doubt it! 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 I totally agree!

To say Jesus is the “Lord and Leader” of my life means...

3) After dying on the cross, Jesus came back to life and is alive in the world today.

I doubt it! 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 I totally agree!

This is what I believe about the resurrection of Jesus...

4) Jesus is the one who helps us know more about who God is.

I doubt it! 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 I totally agree!

These are some of the things we learn from Jesus about the nature of God...

5) In Luke 9:23 Jesus invites disciples to follow him. Here’s what I think it means to “follow Jesus” in modern times...

6) Five words I would use to describe Jesus and qualities I admire about him include:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Student | 1 |
|         | 2 |
|         | 3 |
|         | 4 |
|         | 5 |
| Mentor  | 1 |
|         | 2 |
|         | 3 |
|         | 4 |
|         | 5 |

6) If someone asked me to describe the Holy Spirit, I'd say that the Holy Spirit is:

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

7) Jesus described the Holy Spirit as a wind blowing in the trees (John 3:8). The Spirit of God is like wind in the following ways...

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

8) Jesus also described the Holy Spirit as a comforter (John 14:16). Knowing that God is present during difficult times can help to comfort us because...

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

9) Describe a difficult challenge or relationship you have had recently.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

10) If I'm to follow and obey Jesus, one thing God might want me to change about my life right now is:

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

11) When I think of a person who is a good example of one who has many of the qualities (fruit) of God's Spirit, I think of \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

You may use the following prayer if you are uncomfortable with spontaneous prayer:

**Dear God, we ask that the Holy Spirit would guide and direct our relationship. Help us develop a relationship that is grounded in you. Thank you for this time together. Be with us each day, at school, at play, at home, at work. Keep us safe until we come together again. Amen.**

You may also use the prayer phrases at the back of this book to complete a prayer.

## ➔MODULE FOUR – DEATH AND DYING: FUNERAL MENTOR EVENT

- 1) What emotions do people experience when someone they love has died?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) How might these emotions be expressed during a funeral service?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Attend the Funeral Mentor Event together. This will be held at the funeral home. Did anything happen that you didn't understand?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Why do you think we have funerals instead of just burying or cremating people who die without a public gathering?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Share your thoughts about what you would like your own funeral to be like.  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Have you experienced the death of a loved one? Who? How old were you? Talk about the experience and what you learned from it.  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) What are things that we can do to remember loved ones who have died?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) What are some things you would like others to remember about you after you die?  
Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Make sure you allow time to talk about all the emotions and thoughts that come with talking about death.

Close your time with each of you saying a short prayer asking God to be with you in the confirmation journey and thanking God for your partner in this process.

You may use the following prayer if you are uncomfortable with spontaneous prayer:

**Dear God, we ask that the Holy Spirit would guide and direct our relationship. Help us develop a relationship that is grounded in you. Thank you for this time together. Be with us each day, at school, at play, at home, at work. Keep us safe until we come together again. Amen.**

You may also use the prayer phrases at the back of this book to complete a prayer.

## **THE END**

Congratulations on completing this mentor booklet for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year! Thank you to both of you for your time and energy in beginning this very important relationship. Be sure to thank each other for the time you had together, and for the ways each of you were gifted by the other's presence.

**Students:** Your final task is to return only your booklet to the pastors at the church by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to put your name on the cover!

**REFLECTIONS...**



Use the following words and phrases to start a prayer. You can make it as long or as short as you would like; as elaborate or as simple as you would like. Hopefully these words will help you when you're stuck!

Choose one word from the 'Attributes of God' column, the next word from the 'Images of God' column, and then a phrase from the 'Personal Feelings' column.

**Attributes of God:**

Awesome  
Dear  
Eternal  
Loving  
Holy  
Tender  
Healing  
Heavenly  
Understanding  
All-knowing  
Precious  
Everlasting  
Saving  
Forgiving  
Caring  
Wise

**Images of God:**

Teacher  
Shepherd  
Counselor  
Father  
Mother  
Parent  
Savior  
Creator  
Life giver  
God  
Jesus  
Abba  
Yahweh  
Friend  
King  
Light of the World

**Personal Feelings:**

I am hoping...	I am humbled...	I am angry...
I am fearful...	I am confused...	I am thankful...
I am wondering...	I am embarrassed...	I am sorry...
I am awed...	I am sad...	I am hurt...
I am joyful...	I am curious...	I am eager...
I am honored...		