

2017-2018

8th Grade

Mentor Book

Name: _____

Mentor: _____

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 8th 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 7th at 5:30 pm – Funeral Mentor Event

*Meet with student at least four times during their 8th grade year to complete the three modules and one mentor event on March 8th.

*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 (8th 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 four times during your 8th grade year to complete the three modules plus one mentor event. Mentor event is scheduled for:

Wednesday, March 7th at 5:30 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 15th.

There are three “modules”—conversation guides and short projects, to complete in 8th 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 – 8th Grade Year

1) 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.

2) 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.

3) 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 ONE – 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 TWO – 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 THREE – 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 8th 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 15th. 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...		