

We Hear You

Spiritual mentoring is farm work in which we meet routinely with our mentorees for periodically unglamorous conversations and prayer. Though moments of grand epiphany burst in or around us, the heart of mentoring another is the modest work of the routine” Keith R Anderson & Randy Reese:
Spiritual Mentoring

HONEYMOON IS OVER

- Sometimes one person is more focused than another
- Sometimes it just gets dull
- Sometimes people are annoying
- Sometimes it's difficult to tell if it's just dying or needs some fertilizer meaning do we pull the plug or just readjust something
- Sometimes I feel like I'm in over my head
- Sometimes we need a break
- Sometimes what worked really well for one group totally didn't work at all for us
- Sometimes we loose focus of why we're doing this
- Sometimes discipleship time doesn't feel any different than socializing.
- Sometimes I'm tired of the same issues coming up over and over again
- Sometimes I wish I could disciple everyone wants to be disciple
- Sometimes I wish it wasn't hard to stay committed to the same people
- Sometimes I wish we could follow a manual and check off all the boxes as we go
- Sometimes I wish someone would just tell me what to do and that it would work every time.
- Sometimes I wish that person hadn't fizzled out on me
- Sometimes I wish I could control all the variables
- Sometimes I wish it was easier

THIS MEANS WE'RE DOING IT.

-doesn't mean you're messing up it just means that you're doing it.

ADAPTATION

- Relationships not static- always changing and always variables we can't control.
- Learning to be adaptable- JESUS was so adaptable. In any situation he would adapt to the way people need to *feel love, hear truth and touch holiness.*
- Not that we don't believe it's worth it, it might be that we're so used to planned out, static learning in bible studies that we're just in the learning process of working a muscle that's weak.
- What to read, how long to read it, how to structure the time, how to be honest, how to have tough conversations, how to stay the course with someone. These are all adaptations to a lot of the ideas we've grown up with.

CLIMBING

- Looking @ heather's climbing pictures
- Discipleship can feel like a mountain
- Climbing isn't a straight shot to the top- each foothold and handhold is a mix of strategy and trial and error and you **adapt to the hold that the mountain gives you.**
- **Trust the method Jesus uses** like a climber trust their harness.
- Jesus in Luke 10 sends 72 out 2 by 2 and their job is to tell people who accept them that the Kingdom is near to the, God is near to them or God accepts them, heal and speak peace over the place.
- In his instructions Jesus is clear that they won't be able to determine before hand the outcome b/c he talks about being rejected and having to leave a town when not accepted. They traveled together in 2's, they were instructed to pray to the Lord of the harvest and tell about the Kingdom of God to each other and those they encounter. So they trusted Jesus way and when they returned it says they JOYFULLY reported. IT'S WORTH IT

FOR OUR GOOD

- More quickly I become disillusioned by my ideas, dreams and will the more room I leave for God to really speak, to really have his way with the process of making disciples

Dietrich Bonhoeffer realized this:

(SLIDE) "By sheer grace, God will not permit us to live even for a brief period in a dream world. He does not abandon us to those rapturous experiences and lofty moods that come over us like a dream. Only that fellowship which faces such disillusionment, with all its unhappy and ugly aspects, begins to be what it should be in God's sight, begins to grasp in faith the promise that is given to it. The sooner this shock of disillusionment comes to an individual and to a community, the better for both." From book: Life Together

So much of the working out of our relationships in discipleship is the real business of biblical community. We're just not used to it yet and that's the beauty of the next season for The Gathering.

GOD HOLDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER

Col 1:17

-b/c God holds all things together, I can trust that it will be OK if all my dreams of discipleship fall apart, rejected, disappointed, the Lord holds me

Col 1:21- NOTHING about the way discipleship is going has ANY bearing on how the Lord

Col 1:23 But you must continue to believe this truth

- The promises of God do not depend on our ability to disciple each other well
- None of us have anything to prove
- The Lord who proves himself over and over and over by what is already done in Jesus and the grace he allows us to extend to each other over and over

IT'S WORTH IT (JOYFUL REPORTS)

- Discipleship has literally saved people (suicidal and someone stayed the course with them)
- Has restored a joy and excitement about who Jesus is and how he really does change our lives when you walk with someone making discoveries for the first time.
- Has caused me to seek the Lord, press into him, beat his chest in ways I've never done before
- It's worth it b/c I haven't grown more than the past year when I've been doing this.
- Discipling in some form probably 10 years and I haven't seen the growth like I've seen in some of these relationships
- Each of those scenarios above were after a process, after some disappointment, after some wondering about how this is really going but they stayed the course and kept adapting to the Lord's prompting and people of peace.

IT'S MESSY BUT GOD IS WITH US

- if that sounds cliché then I'm sorry, but it's the reality.
- Matt 28- Great Commission. **"I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."**

All the ambiguity, tension, adaptation, joy, all of it... means:

YOU'RE DOING IT.

YOU'RE NOT MESSING THIS UP

WE'RE ALL ON A LIKE 5-10 YEAR LEARNING JOURNEY TOGETHER

IT'S WORTH IT.

Jesus. Everything he is – is worth it.

Kerri Meyers says: "discipleship is the most important thing I can do for the kingdom.

She's ABSOLUTELY right. . It's *THAT* worth it.