

Your First Three Mentoring Times (just a suggestion)

First one:

Focus on getting to know each other. A fun way to do that is to do the attached Favorite Thing Chart. It is designed for a small group, but just use two of the columns. Each of you has a chart and you fill them in as you go so that you both have a record of each other's favorite things (which comes in handy for little blessings of encouragement when you need them later). We take turns sharing our first favorite thing before we move to the next one. The F.T. at the bottom means Free Time.....ie what would you do if you had 30 minutes of free time, half day, etc.

I then would initiate a discussion about what you both hope to see happen during your times together, how often you will meet, and where, etc. I would include in my hopes casting a vision for authenticity and sharing one another's stories, and that you hope it will be mutual sharing and of mutual benefit and that God will use her in your life as well. I use that quote (is it CS Lewis?) that says, "I look at mentoring like this: "We've both checked into the same hospital with the same disease—I've just been here longer than you." And just for the record....I believe the root disease is ALWAYS identity in Christ, but you don't need to say that.....just yet!

I would then ask for prayer requests and share some requests for her to pray for me and then would pray together—short sentence conversational prayers so she doesn't feel pressure to make a long prayer speech.

Second one:

The agenda for this one would be influenced by what you discussed last week, so you may not even need these suggestions. But here they are just in case.

If I have a girl who is very comfortable with being vulnerable I would use this time to tell our stories. I would go first and take about 20 minutes to tell my story making sure I included past AND PRESENT struggles and tell her if she has any questions afterwards I'd love for her to ask them. I would then have her tell hers, asking questions and heading to prayer afterwards.

If I sense, however, that she is not quite ready for that kind of intimacy, I will do another light-hearted get-to-know-you thing like the attached mini version of the Gary Smalley Personality Profiles (Lion, otter, beaver and golden retriever). It is fun and informative and helps bridge the gap to more intimacy.

At the end of this session, if you do not already know this from former sharing, I would ask them to ask God this coming week for two things that HE is wanting to work on in

their life—I would quote II Thess 5:14 where Paul gives instructions to ‘admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with all men’ and I would tell them that you hope that you can do that with one another in the areas that God reveals. So plan on both of you sharing these things with each other the next week.

Third One (and beyond):

If you haven’t told your stories yet, I would do it this week.

From this point on, I would follow whatever agenda has been set by your previous discussions. Here is what I usually try and include in most of my one on one times:

I like to open with a sharing question like: What has been challenging you this week? Or What was the high and low from your week? Another good one to start using later on is “What lies have you been believing this week?”

I also like to share something—even just for a minute—from my times with Jesus that week to keep in front of them the importance of a personal devotional life. Eventually I start asking about what they learned as well. It’s better than asking, “did you have your Q.T.’s this week?”

If we have any type of ‘agenda’ (like if they want to do a study together, or want you to teach them something, or if there’s something the Lord is leading you to teach them) I do that next.

Then we talk about the two things that God is working on in our lives.

And then we pray. I try and do different types of prayer each week, just to model it for them and not get stuck in the rut of prayer speeches.

If I find we never get to prayer, I change up the order and do it first, or in the middle, etc.