

MAS Mentoring

First Term: Meeting Two

Preparation

- Read chapter two in *The Holiness of God* by R.C. Sproul and answer the questions at the end of the chapter. If you have not read chapter one, make sure you read that first.
- Contact your student ahead of time, letting them know you are looking forward to your upcoming meeting.
- Read the portion on **Push Pause**.
- Pray for your student and pray about your meeting.

Meeting

1. Either you or the student can open with prayer.
2. You may ask them, “Is there anything you want to make sure we talk about today”?
3. Discuss *The Holiness of God* (chapters one and/or two). Share with each other your answers from the chapter.
4. Discuss with the student **Devotion** (see below). How is it going?
5. Ask them if there is anything you can pray for.
6. Close in prayer. Again, either one of you can pray.

Push Pause

Next time you are with your student, I want to encourage you to “push pause.” What do I mean by that? Listening. Being an effective mentor is learning to listen. Through the years, I have often thought, “This person really needs to hear truth from me.” Really? Maybe on certain occasions that is true but overall I am learning my “speaking in” is not necessary. What matters so much in mentoring is relationship and us talking a lot can impede growth. The real question is, “Am I listening?”

Michael Nichols, in his book, *The Lost Art of Listening*, says, “Listening is so basic that we take it for granted. Unfortunately, most of us think of ourselves as better listeners than we really are.”¹ It makes me think that we are always needing work here. For me, there is a degree of restraint, to resist the urge, to suspend my focus on me and what I think. Yes, there will be times we “jump in,” but growing as mentors means growing as listeners.

¹ Michael P. Nichols, *The Lost Art of Listening* (New York, NY: The Guilford Press, 1995), 11.

“Wait, there is so much I need to share with them.” Dare I say, “No you don’t. Just push pause.”

Devotion

This year, the students (and mentors) are reading R.C. Sproul’s book. Alongside that, we are also emphasizing taking time to be with God, reading His Word and praying. We’re calling that **Devotion**. Why the emphasis on Sproul’s book and **Devotion**? Our hope and desire is the book and time with God will inflame in us a knowledge and love of our Lord. We want to be worshipers, in awe of Him, seeking to have a daily rhythm in which we are communing with Him. Now, that is ultimately the work of the Spirit and we trust God will use our faith to draw us in to that fellowship with Him.

We are encouraging our students to be in **Devotion**, and of course, you, as well. We believe the time is about being with your heavenly Father, that we are in relationship with Almighty God. You can be with Him, talk to Him, listen to Him. He loves you; you are His beloved child. That being said, we are communicating to our students what the time is NOT about. They may already get it, but we want them to hear it is not about getting God to love or like them more. It’s not about pleasing you (their mentor) or getting a good grade. It’s not about them keeping their life free from trial. And, it is not about checking it off their daily “to do” tasks.

Now, are there days, in which they may feel like they’re “going through the motions” or checking it off a list? Yes. That is not unusual. The key is to keep showing up. As a friend of mine has said over the years, “Keep showing up, Bob. Something good is bound to happen.”

What happens if they miss a day? Pick up where they left off. We don’t believe our heavenly Father is mad at them (or you) because they missed the day(s). He is there and if they do miss, He is there tomorrow. The most important point is He loves them (and you) and is there.

BC

