

20 Things Mentors Have Done with My Children

This is a partial list of just some of the ways mentors have spent their time with my children when they have met with them. Hopefully it will spark your creativity to think of ideas for your own children when they meet with mentors and to broaden your horizon of the types of mentors to look for!

I have tried to group these by location between home, work and other locations in order to give some context as to how and where the mentoring took place. Some were spread out over more than one location.

WORK

One son learned about what goes into making themed environments. One of the men is the owner of a company which uses mostly Styrofoam to create artistic and feature rich environments which are used in church youth and children ministries, dentist offices, assisted living facilities and entertainment parks. He allowed my son to watch as they were working on a live project, and he allowed him to help with small tasks associated with it.

A lady who spent time with both of my daughters has had them come in and job shadow at her office. She has experienced various miracles of healing in her own body including a complete transformation from major deformities when she was born. Her dynamic personality, her genuine love for people and her single-minded focus on fulfilling the Great Commission has made a strong impact on my daughters.

One son spent a day with the Ukrainian owner of a construction company. This particular day, they were building a barn which turned out to be for a neighbor. Mostly my son was involved in handing tools and fasteners. But the overall experience allowed him to see what goes into constructing a barn, and he got to see how quickly that type of structure can be put together when a crew works quickly and efficiently. Because the barn is not very far from where we live, whenever he passed it, it was a reminder of what he did that day.

A woman who works in special education had my daughter spend the day with her. She gave my daughter a good introduction to the children who are in her program and helped her to understand the challenges they face. My daughter also learned more about how to interact with special ed children on their level without feeling awkward.

The owner of a local Christian radio station allowed my son to shadow him and hang out at his offices. My son was able to meet several of the local personalities whose programs he had listened to on the radio. The owner also shared his own career journey with my son and gave him a copy of a book he had written about his life story.

A lady who owns a bakery taught my daughter how to do custom and exquisite cake decoration. This daughter had already been baking bread as a business for a regular customer base. Spending time with this mentor allowed her to see what doing this type of work full-time would look like. Throughout their day, the lady shared stories from her life including the challenges of losing her husband in an auto accident and how God restored health to her sons

and to her. Even the story of how she started the bakery is a tale of God's direction, provision and faithfulness.

From my college friends, I found a fiber optic technician who allowed my son to spend part of a day with him as he was working to do splicing of hundreds of fiber optic wires in a cable. They ate together and talked. He showed my son how they cut the fiber optic wires and prepare the ends by polishing them. He also demonstrated the use of the highly technical tool which they use to join two tiny strands of glass together in order to service voice, video and data across pulses of light.

A woman who works at a local charity spent time with both of my daughters at different times. Due to loss of jobs, sickness and various life challenges, there are many people in our community who have trouble putting food on the table. My daughters spent time unloading pallets of food or preparing bags of canned goods for ready pickup by men and women who need the basics for their families. Volunteering for service with this woman helped my daughters to understand that the people who need help don't always wear worn out clothes. Sometimes they drive a car and have a collar, but they have had sudden changes which have put them on the edge of practical poverty.

The loan officer at a local credit union met with my son. One important thing he helped him accomplish was to start a basic account that day. He also talked to him about the differences between a sole proprietorship, an LLC and a corporation with respect to liabilities, benefits and taxes.

A police officer met with my daughter and shared her life story with her. She had been involved in gang activity on the West coast, was involved in terrible relationships and had a child out of wedlock. This led to her being separated from her family. Over the course of time and with help from God and her own mentors, she was able to turn her life around. Now, she is able to help people in her own community through her position with the local police force.

HOME

One lady spent the day talking with my daughter about nutrition. Known as someone who leads a healthy, balanced life and who cooks using natural ingredients, she helped my daughter to understand the importance of putting good food into her body. She explained to her the basics of the GIGO (garbage in, garbage out) principle as it relates to the human body.

One retired man spent time with both of my sons (different years) and taught them about gardening. One son was able to use a rototiller and actually dig up the ground. When the other son met with him, due to the weather, they were not able to plow. So he spent time talking about how to read an almanac in order to determine the best times for planting different crops.

A realtor met with one of my daughters and talked to her about how to balance her work with family and her commitment to God. Part of the time was spent at her home where she talked while folding laundry and making sure the house was kept in order. Years later, this same woman met with another daughter and told her how God had spoken to her and told her to resign and quit her job as a realtor. This actually caused some tension with her spouse who was not completely sure she was hearing from God. However, just a few months later, he was

offered a major promotion in another city. By her listening to God and being obedient, she was already in a position to help her family work through the transition with much less stress.

One woman in our community shared with my daughter her battle with breast cancer. She is young enough that many people would not expect that to be an issue she would face. Currently clean, she is living a full life, but she was willing to share not just the physical side but some of the emotional questions which arise during such a life challenge.

A retired man spent time with my son and taught him the basics of brazing and acetylene torch welding over a three-day period. During that time, he taught him safety techniques of working with the tools. He spent time in classroom mode talking about concepts. Then they worked on some basic welding and brazing projects to give him practical experience.

OTHER

One man took my son out to a shooting range for some shooting practice. He covered topics related to gun safety. Then he showed him how to shoot a 9mm pistol and allowed him the opportunity to do so. Afterwards, he allowed my son to shoot an assault rifle.

A lady who works with women who are caught in the web of poverty and disenfranchisement allowed my daughter to attend one of the sessions she leads. My daughter listened and watched as they talked with the women about their challenges. She also learned that they teach the women real life skills such as typing, sewing and such so that they can better position themselves for employment. The underlying lesson of the dangers of simply going through years of education without learning a marketable skill was highlighted by the plight these women face in their daily lives.

One of my sons spent time with a man who loves to experience life to the fullest. For their day, he took my son out to a popular local river destination where there are cliffs and a rope swing. They had a mild hike. Then they jumped off cliffs into the river using the rope swing. My son had a blast. Mom was less than impressed when she discovered what they had done. If you do this type of activity, you probably should clear it with the parents beforehand in order to avoid an awkward situation after the fact.

One lady took my daughter to a women's conference hosted by two of her colleagues. My daughter listened to different women share about how to grow in various areas of life. Because of the mentor's connection, she ate at the speaker's table with the leaders. The mentor also bought her several books so that she could help my daughter to understand that she should keep reading and never stop learning.

A scientist took my son fishing. While he could have potentially done job shadowing, he spent the time doing something relaxing while talking about poignant aspects of growth and character development. In particular, he helped my son to understand that he did not need to strive to fit in with any crowd. He encouraged my son that it was okay to be different and told him that he should work to be content with being different. At the age of 13, this was an important lesson for him to hear before experiencing even greater levels of peer pressure in high school and beyond.

To learn more, visit <https://52godlymentors.com/> or purchase the book for parents entitled ***Nurturing Your Child with Mentors***.