

Nurturing Your Child with Mentors

by
Craig Thompson

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The Mentoring Revolution Series: Book Three

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Other Books by the Same Author

The Mentoring Revolution Series

52 Godly Mentors Parent's Planning Guide

Asking for Wisdom: Maximizing Your Time with Mentors

This book is written for youth and is intended to teach them how to ask the kinds of question which will provide them with wisdom for living.

How To Be a Mentor for a Day

This book gives adults the tools they need to prepare for a successful day of mentoring. Included are steps for planning as well as thought-provoking questions which are useful in analyzing what parts of your life to share with a mentee.

The Mentoring Revolution Small Group Curriculum

Stories for Children

John and Gayle Stories

Other Works

Preaching Through Proverbs: A Collection of Sermons by the Pastors of Central Africa

Foreword

No one ever said that raising children is easy. Homeschooling them is even harder. But once you discover a few secrets, the monumental task gets easier. One of those secrets is to engage appropriate mentors.

Throughout the 29 years my husband and I home educated our seven children, we found that associating our children with suitable mentors in a variety of subject areas had very positive effects on our children. Our oldest three children spent quite a bit of time with a stock market expert at his home. Our oldest son, starting at the age of 12, spent two days every week for two years at an auto mechanic's shop. Our second son spent several years working for and learning from a commercial and industrial roofer who lives five hours away. Our oldest daughter helped our next-door-neighbor bake marvelous cakes, which she sold and delivered to neighbors.

All of these experiences had such an impact in the lives of these children that today they are still reaping the rewards of time well spent. Two of the three oldest children continue to invest in the stock market. The son who spent time at the mechanic's shop now owns a trucking company where his knowledge of auto mechanics is quite useful. The son who mentored with the roofer owns a commercial and industrial roofing company in another state. The daughter who baked cakes worked in the bakeries of Walmart and Publix for many years.

Appropriate life experiences with seasoned mentors gives young people vision that can steer them in making

vocational decisions. The secret is to find mentors who, first, exhibit excellent character and, second, skill. Luke 6:40 says that “everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher”; and if parents allow their impressionable young people to be influenced by “experts” who lack character, they often will bring home the one trait or habit they shouldn’t.

When Craig Thompson asked me to be one of the 52 Godly Women to spend time with Anna and then a few years later, Petra, I was honored. From the moment I heard about his concept, I loved it. I saw the wisdom in older people sharing part of their lives and their time with young people who are preparing themselves for the next stage of life. Feeling very inadequate about sharing something of value with Anna, I asked the Lord for a project. Just about that time, one of my oldest homeschool veteran friends, Pat Wesolowski, was hosting a one-day ladies’ workshop at a camp featuring Nancy Campbell, publisher of Above Rubies magazine. So I asked Craig if he could drop Anna off at the camp to spend the day with all of us.

One lesson I wanted Anna to get from the experience was that no matter how old you are, you should always be learning from others. Nancy is an excellent teacher, and I knew she would speak words of wisdom for all of us to hear. Another lesson I wanted Anna to learn was that when one of your friends hosts an event, support her not only by telling others and going but also by taking someone with you. I wanted my friend Pat to have a good event, and I knew we would all enjoy spending the day together. More lessons came when I bought Anna a pile of Nancy’s books to take home. First of all, because I have a home business, I could afford to make a financial investment in a marvelous

young lady. I wanted her to see the rewards of having a home business. Second, Nancy's books contain important concepts that everyone needs to hear so I wanted Anna to have something very valuable to take home. Always take an expert – or their materials – home with you after you've experienced an amazing educational opportunity. Third, I wanted Anna to understand how much I value reading good literature. Successful people read. As the day went on, I took pictures of each aspect of the event and the friends we met. Once it was over, I had my card designer in Ohio, design and mail a greeting card to Anna for her to remember the day forever. The entire project felt successful to me.

A few years later, Craig asked me to spend some time with Petra. So once again, I asked the Lord, and He led us to work together as a vendor at a local homeschool convention. After all, the life of a vendor looks glamorous, but it's not. It's hard work. Craig's wife, Deana, dropped Petra off at the Chattanooga Homeschool Convention, where I've been teaching workshops on home business for more years than I can count, to spend the day in my booth. I took Petra with me to set up the computer in our workshop area and explained how to connect a laptop to an LCD projector and why a prepared speaker always brings things like their own clicker, an electric strip and an extension cord, whether they need them or not. I introduced her to Gary, the head of the event committee and had our picture taken with him. It's always good to meet people who make things happen. We discussed how to manage several sets of people in your booth at one time and that when you are manning a booth, it's not time to sit back and watch the people walk past, you're there to proactively serve them.

Petra got to spend some fun time shopping on the vendor floor and connected with some of her friends which is just one of the perks of attending professional events. After the event was over, Ms. Kathryn designed and mailed her a card with many of the pictures we took during the day.

Two sisters had two completely different experiences. In child training, I'm often surprised by parents who believe they should give their totally different children the exact same things – the same books, the same experiences, the same mentors. Sometimes that works. But most of the time it doesn't. Even though children may look very similar, they are usually very different. Tailoring their education to their individual personalities, skills, and needs is essential for them to mature into the productive adults we desire them to become.

That's why I am so excited that Craig Thompson is producing books and educational materials to share with others that explain what he has so successfully discovered with his own very wonderful children. I have personally been blessed by this man and his family and am thrilled that you are about to encounter an educational experience that will change your thinking and your life. In order to do that, you must forget what the world has taught you about training children and consider trying a mentoring project with your children.

This is wisdom from God. See it for what it is and don't let being too busy with "school" and life rob you of the benefits your family will gain from this concept. This is real education.

Rhea Perry
Educating for Success

Our Story

It was 3 a.m., and I was sick. I'm usually healthy, but something had gotten the best of me. As a result, I was sleeping a lot. But now, I was wide awake.

I'm the kind of guy that, if I'm going to be awakened at 3 in the morning, I might as well do something worthwhile. So, I sat in my chair thinking, meditating on questions and praying to God.

My son was turning 13 soon. Most adults realize that this age is a time of significant transition. For both boys and girls, this is the time when their bodies began to develop through the process of puberty. The chemicals in their bodies and brains pump rapid growth and change. In spite of this, most people I have known don't seem to have a plan for how to help their child navigate the rocky waters of this time of life.

I wanted something different for my son. For over a year, I had been trying to think of what to do to mark his passage from childhood into adulthood. A simple or elaborate ceremony such as a Bar Mitzvah didn't seem to meet the need. A big gift didn't seem to fit either. Even if I could have afforded it, what's a 13 year old going to do with a car or a boat or a motorcycle?

What I wanted was something which would be transformative, which would stretch out over time and which would help him grow as a person in some way. Originally, I had thought of having him meet with different

business owners and entrepreneurs in order to learn from them the secrets of success in business. Yet, I couldn't shake the feeling that this idea wasn't it. It was incomplete.

So, sick but awake, I was praying for guidance. Like a stone dropped into a pond, the thought dropped into my mind, "52 GODLY men." Suddenly I was extra awake. I knew without a doubt that this was the answer I had been seeking. What I needed to give my son for his birthday was the opportunity to meet with men from all walks of life who were of noble character, men who would talk with him not just about business or money or investing, but who would share wisdom about life itself. I needed to find men who would help my son learn the importance of finding the right spouse, who would share their struggles and successes in raising children, who would talk about how their career choices impacted their lives on a daily basis, and who would help my son understand that making the right decisions over and over and over again would help him enjoy a wealth of success in every area of his life.

Once the idea was in my mind, it was illuminating. I began to write down name after name of men who I knew whom I wanted to spend time with my son. I began writing letters to them asking them if they would consider being part of a brand new project. And, as they responded, I began to schedule one man per week beginning with the week of my son's 13th birthday.

The rest is history. Well, to be frank, the rest was a lot of hard work. But since that time, I've had two daughters turn thirteen and complete the program. My fourth child is going through his own year of mentors. I've given them the same gift not just because they expected it or because I couldn't think of anything else. It's because I can't think

of anything better to give to them.

The changes I have seen in each of their lives have been remarkable. In spite of the amount of time this gift takes to fulfill, at this point, I know it's worth every bit of time, energy, money and whatever effort is involved. My children have all grown enough to realize that what they received was priceless.

In this book, I would like to share some ideas with you about why you should find mentors for your children. You may be a parent, a grandparent, an aunt or uncle. You may be a teacher in a public school or a volunteer at a community youth organization. You may be a youth pastor. Regardless, I believe many of you reading this book already have a desire to do something more for those in your care, something which will propel them to greater heights and inspire them to new ideas.

As you read the chapters, think about the concepts and hear the stories from my children in their own words. We share them with you in order to help you grasp the importance of mentors. The success I have seen with my own children is not unique to my family. It is reproducible if you are willing to put forth the effort.