

Turning Points

COJOURNERS № 5.1 | MENTOR

As you explore other peoples' spiritual journeys, you will discover a number who have come to know Christ, but who now appear to be struggling or headed in the wrong direction. What they need is help getting turned around.

The *Satisfied?* booklet contains a message applicable for this situation. It communicates four key principles:

1. The Divine Gift—God has given us his Spirit so that we can experience intimacy with him and enjoy all he has for us.
2. The Present Danger—We cannot experience intimacy with God and enjoy all he has for us if we fail to depend on his Spirit.
3. The Intimate Journey—By walking in the Spirit we increasingly experience intimacy with God and enjoy all he has for us.

4. The Empowering Presence—We are filled with the Spirit by faith, enabling us to experience intimacy with God and enjoy all he has for us.

Each principle is illustrated with verses from the Bible and helpful diagrams. Questions help apply the message to the struggling believer.

Action Plan

Pray for the believers you know who need a turning point. Ask God to give you the opportunity to share the *Satisfied?* booklet with them. You may acquire *Satisfied?* booklets from a Campus Crusade staff member.

Summary

Understanding the ministry of the Holy Spirit will help struggling believers turn around.



Care Package

COJOURNERS № 5.2 | MENTOR

When people come to Christ, they are particularly vulnerable to difficulties and distractions that can spiritually derail them. They need mature believers to encourage them.

The apostle Paul's relationship to the new believers in Thessalonica provides an excellent model for us. Like Paul, we can care for new believers in five ways:

1. Pray for them. (1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3; 3:10, 11-13)
2. Spend time with them. (1 Thessalonians 2:1-20, especially 2:8)
3. Write to them, or provide them something appropriate to read. (1 and 2 Thessalonians)
4. Connect them with other believers. (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 3:6; 4:9, 10; 5:11, 12-15, 26-27)
5. Have another Christian leader connect with them. (1 Thessalonians 3:1, 2)

We can't guarantee another person will grow to spiritual maturity (Mark 4:13-20). But we can and should do all we can to help them grow.

Action Plan

Identify younger believers who you know need a spiritual mentor. Which of the five can you do to encourage them in their spiritual journey? Plan to get started this week.

Summary

Young believers need an active caregiver to help them grow.



Life Connections

COJOURNERS № 5.3 | MENTOR

People grow spiritually in the context of relationships, and mentors can be the ones to guide new believers into these healthy communities of relationships.

Followers of Christ need three primary relationships. They are:

- A mature believer to help them grow. This may be you.
- A group of friends with whom to grow. This may become their small group.
- A community to be involved with. This is a larger fellowship of believers.

Help the new believer quickly form two out of the three primary relationships. A believer who is lacking all three will not grow. A believer who has only one primary relationship, regardless of which one, has little prospect for sustained growth. But we can expect

healthy growth for someone with two out of the three. Three out of three is the ideal greenhouse environment.

Discuss

Which of the three were most significant in your spiritual growth? Why?

Action Plan

Identify four to six Christians, perhaps newer believers, who you have a concern for their spiritual growth. How is their growth environment with respect to the three primary relationships? What can you do individually and as a group to help them have at least two of the three?

Summary

Relationships are needed for healthy spiritual growth.



Life Concepts

COJOURNERS № 5.4 | MENTOR

The early days in a new believer's journey can be filled with struggles. Many will face these five common issues:

1. Being uncertain: Am I really a Christian?
2. Feeling unworthy: I am bad because I still sin.
3. Being unable: I don't have what it takes to live the Christian life.
4. Being unprepared: Why do I struggle with wrong desires?
5. Being undeveloped: How do I grow in my Christian life?

Which of these struggles have you experienced? Share personal examples.

A spiritual mentor will help a young believer prepare in advance and possibly avoid these common struggles. Understanding and experiencing the Bible's answer is the best preparation. Five excellent passages that address these issues are:

1. Uncertainty—1 John 5:11-13
2. Unworthiness—1 John 1:5-2:2
3. Unable—1 Corinthians 2:12-3:4
4. Unprepared—Galatians 5:16-26
5. Undeveloped—Acts 2:42-47

Action Plan

These issues and passages can be discussed together with a young believer by using *Life Concepts*. You can download copies of *Life Concepts* from www.godsquad.com/Squadroom/Discipleship/lifeconcepts.htm or acquire them from a Campus Crusade staff member. Study and master one concept a week and prepare to share them with others.

Summary

A mentor grounds new believers in essential Biblical concepts.

