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MENTORING

Children and young people have multiple adult mentors of vital faith.

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

HEBREWS 13:7

Mentoring creates relationships. These, in turn, help create community within a congregation. It is a way of inviting people to share their lives, their stories and their faith together. It leads to growth in faith in both younger and older people.

There is compelling research about the impact that adults can have on teenagers as they grow into their faith. LifeWay research says “teens that had five or more adults from the church invest in them during the ages of 15-18 were less likely to leave the church after high school.”

Mentoring can take place one-on-one, or in small groups. Build on the strengths and

resources in your congregation to create intentional mentoring opportunities.

Mentoring is most effective if it is a long-term consistent relationship. The longer the relationship continues the more influential it is in the life of the young person.

Meeting on a regular basis for at least a year is a great place to start. This gives an opportunity for the young person to develop trust.

Caring for young people can be emotionally exhausting; therefore, it is also important that the mentor is involved in a mentoring relationship of their own.