

loving Jesus and loving my friends...

THE ESSENTIALS

Finding a Coach/Mentor

*Why is it important to find a coach or mentor for our
team? How do we find one?*

Finding a Coach/Mentor

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

Matthew 4:19 (NIV)

“For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. So I urge you to imitate me. That’s why I have sent Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of how I follow Christ Jesus, just as I teach in all the churches wherever I go.”

1 Corinthians 4:15-17 (NLT)

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)

The Bible is full of examples of coaching and mentoring. Obviously Jesus was the ultimate coach, but He’s not our only example! Barnabas mentored Paul who mentored Titus and Timothy who mentored Epaphras and on and on and on. The point is, God makes it clear that it’s important to have older people in our lives who guide us and encourage us.

As you and your team love on and pour into your peers at school, it’s important to you to have someone who, in turn, encourages and pours into your team! This is all part of being a disciple.

A coach/mentor can be a teacher, a youth worker or just an older friend who loves Jesus and wants to help your team impact your campus for Christ! It’s important to find someone who will empower you, rather than someone who will take over and try to run things for you. Just think about the coach of any sports team...they don’t play the game...the players do! It’s important to find someone who won’t “bench” you!

Coaches are THERE for their players. They support them. They answer questions and help them find answers. They applaud their efforts, not just their successes. Good coaching involves good relationship. Your coach should put the needs of your team above their own...they should be interested in your growth as a follower of Jesus above all else! It’s also important to find someone who is more interested in helping you learn to love people like Jesus than someone who just wants to add numbers to your Bible club.

As you read this section, start thinking about some adults in your life who you look up to and who fit the characteristics we’ve listed so far. Your team will be much better supported and equipped if you have someone discipling you as you learn to disciple others!

Finding a Coach/Mentor

STORY TIME

A Divine Connection

Jacob didn't get to attend his school of choice freshman year. He was separated from his junior high friends and he was bummed, but he made the best of it. However, Jacob never gave up hope that he would be able to transfer to his school of choice. In fact, God was already giving him a vision for that school...a vision to see it impacted for Christ and to see the lives of the students there transformed!

Jacob got his wish! He was able to transfer to his school of choice for his sophomore year. He was excited to start some sort of ministry on that campus. So he prayed for help.

That summer, Jacob ended up having a conversation with one of the high school staff people at his youth group. He found out that she worked for an organization called Youth For Christ that could help him out! She mentored and coached student leaders involved in campus ministry. He told her that he had been praying for this exact kind of help!

While they were at camp that summer, Jacob and his new coach called a meeting of interested students who went to Jacob's new school. They began to talk about creating an on-campus ministry that was focused on reaching out and loving people. The students started to pray and plan. The first week their club met they had 80 students show up! They called the club The EDGE, which stood for The Every Day Grace Experience.

The leadership team met weekly at their coach's house to pray, talk, encourage each other, and keep each other accountable. God continued to deepen the relationships between the students in The EDGE and their coach. By the time these students were graduating seniors, they had seen God do all sorts of things in their lives and on their campus!

God knew what he was doing...setting them up with someone to disciple them as they disciplined others! And now those students are in college, discipling others who will then go and disciple others! God's good at math...He knows the power of multiplication!

Finding a Coach/Mentor

*** This solo exercise is an opportunity for you to work alone through some questions about having a coach/mentor in your life.*

SOLO EXERCISE

Read and answer the questions about finding a coach below:

- **Just as it's important to have a coach/mentor for your campus ministry team, it's also important to have someone who is discipling you individually. Someone you can talk to honestly about what's going on in your life. Someone you can trust. Someone who asks you good questions about your relationship with Jesus. Someone who walks through life with you. Thinking about that, answer the questions below:**
 - **In your life so far, who are the people who have mentored or discipled you? List their names below and next to their names, write down the impact they've had in your life.**
 - **Do you currently have a mentor? If so, who? If not, think about some older people in your life who you trust and write down their names (could be someone on staff in your high school group, a sibling, a friend's older sibling, etc!).**

CHALLENGE:

If you already have a mentor, write them a thank you note. If you don't, we challenge you choose one of the names you wrote down in the question above...call them, text them, talk to them and ask them if they can hang out and go to coffee. Tell them you'd like to know if you can start meeting on a regular basis and talking about life. Don't be afraid...it's worth it! GO FOR IT!

Finding a Coach/Mentor

TEAM EXERCISE

*** This team exercise is an opportunity for you and your community or campus team to answer some questions about finding a coach/mentor for your team.*

It's one thing to have a teacher sponsor, but a coach is something totally different. Your teacher sponsor MIGHT be your coach, but they could just simply be the person who lets you use their room and gives you a thumbs up! A coach is much more than that. Read and answer the questions about finding a coach below:

- **Jesus was the ultimate coach...obviously! In your team, complete the chart below. Read the passages listed on the left and then answer each of the questions across the top for each passage:**

	What characteristics do you notice about Jesus as a coach in these passages?	What are some of the most important lessons Jesus taught the disciples in these passages?	What can your team learn from these passages about loving others on your campus?
Jesus Sends Out The Twelve Matthew 10			
The Great Commission Matthew 28:18-20			
Feeding the Five Thousand Matthew 14:13-21			
The Calling of Levi Mark 2:13-17			

(continued...)

Finding a Coach/Mentor

TEAM EXERCISE (...continued)

- Obviously there are plenty more passages in Scripture where Jesus coaches and mentors His disciples. Can you think of any others? What do you notice about Jesus as a coach in those passages?

- Now it's time to think and pray with your team. If your team doesn't yet have a coach, take some time to ask God for the name of someone your team knows who might be a good coach for you guys. Write down the name(s) you hear below and next to their name, write down some of the reasons they would be a good Jesus-style coach for your team: (It could be a teacher, youth pastor, staff at your youth group, or a Youth For Christ/YoungLife/FCA/Student Venture/California Schools Project staff person, etc. Try to think of someone who would be willing to meet with you guys outside of school and someone who has a heart for campus ministry. If you can't think of anyone, send an email to us at mail@socalyfc.org and we will try to set you up with someone!)

CHALLENGE:

Yep, you guessed it! This is the part where **ACTION** is required! We **DOUBLE DARE** you to contact the person(s) you listed above and ask them to go out to coffee with all or some of your team. Talk with them about your team's vision and passion for your campus and ask them if they'd be willing to help by being your coach!