



MENTOR TEACHING: Sowing Seeds In Your Mentee

Our hearts, the soil; God's word, the seed by Julie Courtney, Better Together Ministry Leader

Read: Luke 8:4-15 -- Reading *The Parable of the Sower* this Lenten season revealed something new to me. Yes, Jesus explained the parable, but the Living Word has something personal for each of us. The mirror it holds up reflects the shape of our lives. The scripture shared that in my life, my heart has each kind of soil.

As a child, I heard the word, yet it was subtly diverted from my mind, *eaten up by the birds*. In my young adult life, the joy of God's truth fell on the rocky soil. Rebellion took away the word, *withered because it had no moisture*. And I fell carelessly into the snare of the world. As a young mother the soil of my heart was full of life's worries, pride, and questioning, it *choked the plants*. Manifesting what the word has taught in secret, bears the fruit of the Spirit. The honest heart has the good soil, firmly fixed on God *yielding a crop, a hundred times more than was sown*.

So as a mentor this is where I (we) persevere, coming along side and loving one another. Sowing Christ's word into lives and sticking with it until harvest.

2 Cor. 9-6: Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

MENTOR APPLICATION by Tina Hanscome, Better Together Ministry Leader

As Mentors, we are privileged to help support our Mentees as they go through their walk with Christ and as they respond to the seeds that are planted in their lives. So how can we practically help them in this journey? First and foremost, take a moment to note how important it is for us as believers to spend time in God's Presence and to be filled with His love and Holy Spirit. Do this before every encounter with your Mentee - a time of prayer, worship and repentance, so you are a clean vessel filled with Him and ready to do His will.

A couple years ago, many people at PCC went through the Revive training and participated in the ministry. As Revive teaches, there are many ways to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to effectively support and encourage (your Mentees), but here are four steps to remember in all situations:

- 1. LOVE** -- We love because Christ first loved us. By praying guidance from the Holy Spirit and wisdom in speaking words of love, we are on our way to being love-minded towards our Mentees.
- 2. LISTEN** -- It is important to listen to your Mentee's needs and prayers. Tune out our own needs and wants to focus on and help another. Remember, we have two ears and one mouth.
- 3. DISCERN** -- By being in constant dialog with God about every encounter, you then can discern what response God wants you to make regarding your Mentee.
- 4. RESPOND** -- Taking all of the above into consideration: love, listen and discern. Now is the time to respond according to what God prompts you to. It could be words of love, sharing the gospel, prayer, or any number of wonderful responses. Remember, God will ask us to help plant, water and fertilize the seeds, but only He can GROW the seeds.