



NATASHA SISTRUNK ROBINSON

Lead on purpose. Mentor for life.

GETTING STARTED

Launch a Mentoring or Discipleship Ministry Checklist

- ☐ Pray and Prepare (Read through *Mentor for Life: Finding Purpose Through Intentional Discipleship.*)
- ☐ Identify and train potential mentors. (Go through the *Mentor for Life* Leadership Training Manual & Video Lessons. These resources are available with pre-order or early order book sales, or by confirming Natasha's coaching or consulting services.)
- ☐ Determine your leadership team meeting dates. (Be consistent and plan ahead for the entire mentoring season. This prior planning will greatly assist mentor leaders when preparing for their own mentoring group gatherings with their mentees.)
- ☐ Pick an official ministry launch date. Goal: _____

Here are some considerations to help you:

Seasonal Launch & Commitment Month	Start Mentoring Season	End Mentoring Season	Sabbath Rest
May	August	May	June-July
October	January	October	Nov-Dec
Other:			

- ☐ Review mentoring framework resources and select the mentoring curriculum (3 Mentoring Resources) to review with the leadership team:

Mentoring "Knowing and Loving God" Resource: _____

Mentoring "Identity in Christ" Resource: _____

Mentoring "Loving Your Neighbor" Resource: _____

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- ☐ Mentor leaders determine what days, times, and location(s) to offer mentoring group(s). Mentoring groups generally gather once per month. (If launching or revamping a mentoring or discipleship ministry with multiple mentor leaders, it is important to offer a variety of times and locations to accommodate schedules for mentees at different life stages and geographical locations.)
- ☐ Spread the word: Share the mentoring mission with those in your areas of influence
- ☐ Invite others to join in: The best chances you have of gathering support of a ministering ministry is through word of mouth and already formed relationships. How long will you spread the word? What is the message? Who are your primary message communicators? How will you give people the opportunity to commit to a mentoring group?
- ☐ Connect mentors and mentees as soon as possible after mentees have expressed interest and have completed a mentoring information form (sample is available in *Mentor for Life* appendix, and *Mentor for Life* Leadership Training Manual).
- ☐ Start mentoring groups and begin to **Mentor for Life!**

On The Mentoring Journey:

“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”
Hebrews 5:13-14 NIV

- ☐ After the official launch and once mentoring groups have begun, it is important to continue meeting with the leadership team regularly. (I recommend once per month.) This monthly meeting will be a critical means of team building, encouragement, spiritual formation, mutual learning, and support for the mentors (especially if they have never done anything like this before).

- ☐ Regularly remind mentors that their mentoring group is a source of learning and training both for them and their mentees. Mentors must be alert to those mentees who are humble, have a willingness to learn and grow, and have shown evidence of leadership potential to join the mentoring team in future years. (About half way through the mentoring season, these are the mentees you want to prayerfully ask to commit to leadership training, so they can prepare to lead a mentoring group in the following mentoring season.)
- ☐ Mentoring as intentional discipleship is challenging work. Be sure to give mentors an opportunity to rest and recharge at the end of each mentoring season. This season of rest does not mean that they cannot spend quality time with their mentees. It only means they will not have requirements to attend leadership meetings, prepare for a mentoring group, or any other ministry commitments during this time.

Other Ways to Support the Mentoring Team:

- Pray for and with mentors regularly.
- Be an encourager. Mentoring is not a sprint. It is a marathon. Be patient on the journey.
- Be available.
- Do not make assumptions. Listen well, and ask questions.
- Lead by example. Do not ask mentors to make any commitment you have not already made.
- Find joy on the journey. Laugh and have fun.
- Communicate! Communicate! Communicate!
- Inspire rest. The daily grind has become the norm in America. You can model healthier ways of living by encouraging mentors to say “no” and practice the disciplines of Sabbath, celebration, solitude, and silence.



Natasha is the author of *Mentor for Life: Finding Purpose through Intentional Discipleship* (Zondervan, 2016). She intentionally serves as a credible witness of Christ's leadership to engage, equip, and empower people to live and lead on purpose. She is the visionary founder of Leadership LINKS, Inc., who also serves as a Bible teacher, writer, anti-human trafficking advocate, and champion for education. Natasha is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Charlotte (*cum laude*, M.A. Christian Leadership) and the U.S. Naval Academy. A former Marine Corps officer, she has over 15 years of leadership and mentoring experience in the military, government, church, seminary, and nonprofit sectors. She is a sought after leadership consultant, mentoring coach, and speaker. Connect via her blog www.asistasjourney.com, Twitter @asistasjourney, or www.facebook.com/NatashaSistrunkRobinson.