



# Mentoring People in Ministry

by Joey Ellis

**D**uring my first year of ministry, a good friend gave me excellent advice. He told me to make sure I always reproduce myself wherever God puts me.

As we empower people to help us in ministry, we not only effect the present, but the future as well. It is so rewarding for a children's pastor to know that when God sends them somewhere else, they have people trained and ready to carry on the work of the ministry.

Jesus was a master at mentoring His team. He took a band of men, whom most would not pick as leaders, and turned them into a team of world changers. Paul was an outstanding mentor to many, but in particular, to a young man named Timothy (Acts 16). Let's take a look at two different kinds of "Timothys" God will place in your path.

## Mentoring Adult "Timothys"

Always be on the look out for a "Timothy." Sometimes the people God wants us to train are not the obvious ones. I will never for-

get one of the "Timothys" that God sent my way. Tripp was a police officer who had recently been saved. He began to come and observe children's church and wanted to get involved. Though he had never worked with children, he had a desire to reach kids before they got trapped in a lifestyle he so often saw as an officer.

When I gave  
him his first



object lesson to do in kid's church, he came with the entire lesson written on the underside of his arm. As he was speaking, he would glance at his arm and read a part of the lesson. I was reluctant to give him another object lesson. But God had great plans for him. We must see our "Timothys" as what they can be, not as what they are.

Tripp continued to grow and improve in ministry with children. I was amazed as I watched how he developed. To my surprise, when we left that church, Tripp sent me a letter telling me how he felt God was leading him into the ministry. The church approached him about becoming the children's pastor, and after twelve years on the police force, Tripp resigned as an officer to be the pastor of a group of incredible kids.

## Mentoring Child "Timothys"

Sometimes our "Timothys" are children in our ministries. We have a tremendous impact on the children we lead. Through us, God will plant the seeds of full-time ministry in the hearts of kids. Never take lightly the comments from little girls and boys like, "I want to be a kid's pastor just like you when I grow up." God has big plans for the kids in our ministries. He will use us to mentor and shape those young lives while they are in our care.

Our weekly children's ministries should be the training grounds for our future pastors and missionaries. Some of our most rewarding times can be when we sit back and watch our

children do the work of the ministry. How will our children learn how to minister if we do not teach them?

Teaching children to minister helps to prepare them for the next level of ministry. One of my very important goals in ministry was to hand the youth pastor a

strong, committed group of kids who knew how to minister. I wanted my kids to be his core leadership. We must equip the smaller saints for the work of the ministry.

Mentoring others in ministry should be high on our priority list. By bringing others alongside

of us and showing them the way, we multiply our efforts and continue the faith. Pray and ask God to show you those you need to pull in a little closer, and begin mentoring them for a lifetime of ministry.

---

### Questions for Further Study—

1. In what ways can you reproduce yourself in your children's ministry?

This article is reprinted from the Summer 2001 issue of *Fanning the Flame*, a quarterly newsletter for children's workers produced by the National Children's Ministries Agency. *Fanning the Flame* is mailed free to children's pastors and directors in the local church. For additional copies and back issues contact GPH at 1-800-641-4310.

