



LEAD IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY

Mentor Process Guide

Version 1.6



www.mentorlink.org

DEAR MENTOR,

Welcome to LEAD IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY. This module is part of the MentorLink Institute. This is intended to be a voluntary process available to all who want to participate in a Mentor Group. Mentors may use this with anyone who may want to grow in leading like Jesus.

As a fellow Mentor, I trust this will be a life-changing experience as you grow to be more like Jesus in the way you serve. It is part of a process to take you and the others in your Mentor Group into the heart of what Jesus wants from those who lead in His Kingdom.

Our heart really is to serve you and to assist you to succeed in facilitating your Mentor Group. We are doing our best to make this a mentoring process that will make a difference in your life and mentoring of leaders to lead like Jesus.

Dr. Stacy Rinehart for the MentorLink Institute



CONTACT INFORMATION:

MentorLink International

P.O. Box 80506 • Raleigh, NC 27623 • USA

Ph: +919-841-5806

e-mail: info@mentorlink.org • web: www.mentorlink.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	2
Session Goals	3
Lead In Light of Eternity Basics	4
Session 1: JUDGMENT AHEAD	5
Session 2: COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS	7
Session 3: REWARDS: GOOD OR BAD	9
Session 4: FALSE LEADERS' JUDGMENT #1	11
Session 5: FALSE LEADERS' JUDGMENT #2.....	12
Session 6: JESUS AS JUDGE	13
In Closing	14

Overview: Lead in Light of Eternity

In This Module You And Your Mentor Group Will . . .

1. Better understand the criteria by which Jesus will evaluate our ministry.
2. Evaluate and purify our motives in ministry.

Responsibilities . . .

1. Complete assignments for sessions before you meet together.
2. Meet with your Mentor Group weekly.
3. Pray for each other daily.

Sessions . . .

1. Judgment Ahead
2. Cost/Benefit Analysis
3. Rewards: Good or Bad?
4. False Leaders' Judgment #1
5. False Leaders' Judgment #2
6. Jesus as Judge

Session Goals

1. Judgment Ahead

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member begin to see the importance of evaluating their lives and ministries in view of the scrutiny their work will receive when they stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2. Cost/Benefit Analysis

The goal of this session is help each Mentor Group member understand that God intends to reward his servants for their service, and to begin to develop biblically based criteria to apply in making personal and ministry decisions.

3. Rewards: Good or Bad?

The goal of this session is help each Mentor Group member develop a biblical understanding of the appropriate role promised rewards have in providing Christians with the perspective needed to make wise choices between temporal and eternal benefits.

4. False Leaders' Judgment #1

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member understand the danger of being "earthly minded" in contrast to "heavenly minded." Losing focus on eternity to focus on temporal benefits can corrupt a leader and will result in fruitlessness.

5. False Leaders' Judgment #2

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member distinguish between false teachers/prophets and leaders who may be true believers but whose earthly mindedness may corrupt both their character and ministry, and may cause them to lose rewards they would otherwise receive The Day Jesus rewards his people.

6. Jesus as Judge

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member develop standards for leaders from Matthew 23, to review the module, and then to specifically apply what has been learned to himself and his or ministry.

LEAD IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

[Mentor]

Using the “Lead in Light of Eternity” Module

- 1** The **Lead in Light of Eternity** module is intended for Christians operating in the churches, para-church ministries, organizations and the marketplace. Its intent is to help believers keep eternal values clearly in view in shaping their lives here and now.
- 2** Other MentorLink Institute modules provide training in character, heart and values required for effective servant leadership in organizational settings.

Study Materials and Assignments

- 3** It’s essential that each Mentor Group member, including yourself, read and complete assignments **before** you meet. This is so important that you may wish to establish a rule that anyone who has not completed the reading and assignments may listen, but may not participate when you meet.

Like other *MentorLink Institute* modules this one has two aspects: (1) assignments which you and your Mentor Group members complete before group meetings, and (2) group meetings at which you all share experiences and insights.

Leading the Group

- 4** This Mentor guide provides suggestions that will help you conduct the group sessions. As Mentor it’s important that you view yourself as a co-learner with your Mentor Group members, that you also complete the assignments before group meetings, and that you set an example of open and honest sharing.
- 5** Significant sharing takes time. For this reason we suggest you plan to meet for a minimum of 1½ hours.

The process you will follow when you meet typically involves four stages:

- Check up Brief reports of what’s happening in each person’s life.
- Content A discussion of the topic studied in preparation for your meeting.
- Impact Personal sharing designed to explore the impact of the truth on each of your lives and ministries.
- Prayer Prayer for each other’s growth and any special needs.

SESSION 1: JUDGMENT AHEAD

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member begin to see the importance of evaluating their lives and ministries in view of the scrutiny their work will receive when they stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Check up

Invite each group member to tell briefly about his or her supervisor and the evaluation process used at work. What criteria used in evaluating him? What happens if the evaluation is positive? If it's negative?

Content

Discuss the Letter from Baghdad. What stood out in this letter? Then focus on the "temporary resident" theme. Share the reasons your group members came up with why it might be easier to keep this focus in Baghdad. Then share why it might be harder to maintain the "temporary resident" focus where they live.

Move on to the comparison between the two sets of passages on future judgment. Record the comparisons and contrasts you and your team members came up with. Keys: The Corinthian passages describe a judgment by Christ of the works of believers at the "judgment seat" [*bema*]. The Revelation passages describe a judgment by God of the works of unbelievers at the "great white throne." Rewards are at issue in Corinthians, eternal condemnation is at issue in Revelation. The common elements are that both judgments concern what individuals do, and that both judgments are rendered by God at history's end.

Impact

Tell your Mentor Group members that you're going to ask them a question, and that they are to write down the first two words that come into their minds. Then ask, "How does it make you feel to know that your work will be judged by Christ?"

Share the words each wrote down. Then discuss: Why do you suppose these were the first words we thought of?

NOTE: If your group came up with words like "fearful," "ashamed," or such, part of the problem may be confusion about the nature of Christ's judgment seat. It may help to read them the following quote from the **Richards' Illustrated Bible Dictionary**, p. 600:

"Judgment Seat: A raised platform used for public proclamation. Winners of athletic games were announced from a *bema*. Civic officials pronounced judicial sentences and public commendation from such a platform. Paul's statement, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:10) would have stirred not only fear but also enthusiasm. The judgment seat in Corinth was a large, centrally located platform. When someone appeared before the *bema*, it was sometimes for condemnation, sometimes for commendation.

With the Christian's sins paid for by Christ and no longer an issue, appearance at Christ's judgment sea will be to receive rewards (see Ephesians 6:6; Revelations 22:12)

Optional

Ask each Mentor Group member to focus during the coming week on the picture of Christ distributing rewards to them from the **bema** at history's end.

Prayer

Encourage group members to share important decisions they are facing in their lives or ministries, and then pray for each other.

SESSION 2: COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member understand that God intends to reward his servants for their service, and to begin to develop biblically based criteria to apply in making personal and ministry decisions.

Check up

Invite your Mentor Group members to share any impact that the first session of this study had on their thinking or actions this past week.

Content

Go over the oil company exercise you and your group members completed. Compare the choice each made, and the criteria each used in making that choice.

Then discuss the two Matthew passages, and the criteria that your Mentor Group members developed from them to guide servant leaders' decision making. Note that to gain eternal rewards may cost us temporal rewards (Matthew 16), and that desires for earthly wealth and eternal wealth are often in competition (Matthew 19).

Then ask Mentor Group members to read the conclusions they drew from Matthew 6, and to explain how each reached his or her conclusions from the text.

Implications

Some assume that it's unspiritual to think in terms of rewards. Ask your group members their opinion, and discuss briefly. Then point out that all our decisions in life involve an implicit if not explicit process of evaluating the cost versus the benefits of our choices.

Just as an oil company executive would be at fault if he did not consciously and carefully perform due diligence on a project, we Christians are at fault if we do not consciously evaluate our actions in view of the costs and benefits of focusing on earthly rather than eternal rewards.

Optional

Challenge your Mentor Group members to apply the criteria each developed from Matthew 16 and 19 to decisions he faces in the coming week. Let your group members know you'll ask for a report at your next meeting.

Prayer

Martin Luther wrote in one his commentaries that only two days counted on his calendar: "Today" and "That Day." Luther wanted every "today" to count toward the rewards that would be passed out on "that Day."

Pray together that each of you might use each coming "today" in view of "that Day."

SESSION 3: REWARDS: GOOD OR BAD?

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member develop a biblical understanding of the appropriate role promised rewards have in providing Christians with the perspective needed to make wise choices between temporal and eternal benefits.

Check up

Share what happened as each of your Mentor Group consciously applied principles from Matthew 16 and 19 in making decisions this week.

Content

Work through assignment pages 16 through 20 together. Unless your Mentor Group members become involved in a particularly fruitful discussion, you can move through these pages quickly. Your group members should easily see that only in case C was a reward used appropriately, to provide both perspective and a goal that will help the teen stick to his plan to work and to save for college.

In both Hebrews 11 and 1 Peter 5 (page 17) rewards had a similar function; to provide a perspective that encouraged the making of right choices. Then make any changes to the statements (page 13) your Mentor Group feel is necessary to bring them into harmony with Scripture's teaching.

Note that while the verses quoted (page 20) may not speak directly of rewards, they imply rewards. See what other verses your group members came up with. Through this process your Mentor Group should be further convinced that God does use rewards to motivate and provide perspective for Christian decision-making.

You'll want to focus most of your discussion on page 21, which leads you and your Mentor Group to look back over their lives and realize that many choices they have will bring them rewards when they face Jesus at the judgment seat (*bema*).

Impact

Sum up by noting that God intends to reward his servants, and that each of you has made choices between the eternal and temporal that show your commitment to Jesus. These choices are praiseworthy, and as 1 Corinthians 4:5 says, "at that time [when Christ judges us] each will receive his praise from God."

Optional

During this coming week consciously remember that a day is coming when you'll receive praise from God. You and your Mentor Group members may wish to write 1 Corinthians 4:5 or another verse on 3x5 cards and post them at home and at work where you'll be reminded.

Prayer

Thank God for the choices each of you has made that has brought you to your present place, spiritually and ministry-wise. And thank God for the rewards that in his grace he will give each of you at That Day.

SESSION 4: FALSE LEADERS' JUDGMENT #1

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member understand the danger of being "earthly minded" in contrast to "heavenly minded." Losing focus on eternity to focus on temporal benefits can corrupt a leader and will result in fruitlessness.

Check up

Share what you did to remind yourselves that a day is coming when you will receive praise from God. How did this conscious focus affect your decisions this week.

Content

Work through the New Testament passages in this week's assignment sheet. What insights did you and your Mentor Group members gain from each?

Then discuss the short article on page 23. Finally compare the Old and the New Testament leaders.

Impact

Share the incidents you and your Mentor Group members described. The purpose of this sharing is not to embarrass anyone, but to illustrate graphically the danger to even the most mature Christian from the attraction of worldly benefits.

Optional

Earlier you and your Mentor Group members sought to consciously focus on rewards. This week seek to be aware of those earthly benefits which have a strong attraction for you individually. Often we respond to such attractions unthinkingly, even unaware of what we're doing. It's important to be more aware of our motives if we are to truly lead Jesus' way.

Prayer

Ask God to reveal areas of weakness in each of you this week. That you might consciously choose between temporal benefits and heavenly reward in your personal lives and leadership role.

SESSION 5: FALSE LEADERS' JUDGMENT #2

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member distinguish between false teachers/ prophets and leaders who may be true believers but whose earthly mindedness may corrupt both their character and ministry, and may cause them to lose rewards they would otherwise receive The Day Jesus rewards his people.

Check up

Share any areas of weakness that you or your Mentor Group members became aware of during the past week.

Content

Discuss the Bible passages you and your Mentor Group members studied, and develop a composite list of the theological, character, and ministry marks of false teachers.

Impact

Talk about the Christian leaders identified in 4 and 5, and then discuss the conclusions that you and your Mentor Group members drew. Among them may be: False teachers are not true Christians but are counterfeit believers. Truly Christian leaders are vulnerable to the character flaws associated with false teaching.

Implications

Ask each to share the ways in which he or she believes the discoveries during this Bible study might be applied.

Prayer

As you being your prayer time you might summarize. God encourages a consistent focus on the benefits awaiting us in eternity as protection against falling into the trap of succumbing to the lure of "benefits" this world this offers. But becoming "earthly minded" can erode and destroy our character and our ministries.

Session 6: Jesus as Judge

The goal of this session is to help each Mentor Group member develop standards for leaders from Matthew 23, to review the module, and then to specifically apply what has been learned to himself and his or ministry.

Check up

Share briefly one way in which each of you has applied what God has been teaching him or her during the past week.

Content

Share the standards for leaders you and your Mentor Group members have drawn from the study of Matthew 23, and how they see these standards being violated by leaders today.

Then briefly review together key points in the first five sessions.

Impact

Each of you has been asked to write a letter to yourself patterned on Jesus' letters to the seven churches (Revelation 2,3). The purpose of this assignment is to encourage an analysis of your strengths and weaknesses as one who leads in light of eternity. Be sure each of you has the opportunity to read the letter he or she has written aloud, and to receive feedback.

Optional

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 aloud, and take a few minutes for your Mentor Group members to meditate on Paul's words.

Prayer

Close by praying for each Mentor Group member, shaping your prayers in response to the letter each one has written to himself.

In Closing

Dear Fellow Worker in the Kingdom,

Thank you for facilitating your Mentor Group. Around the world there is a need for people just like you. We praise Him that you answered His call. We also know that around the world emerging leaders are crying out for people just like you. For those in your Mentor Group, we thank you as well. You were there to make a difference in their lives and hearts.

Our heart is to continue to serve you as you continue your existing Mentor Group or start additional Mentor Groups. Let us know what your needs are and what resources you might need.

*Could you also send (email: info@MentorLink.org) us a few sentences or paragraphs and share with us what God is doing in your life and leadership as a result of your experience through the **LEAD IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY** Module?*

Dr. Stacy Rinehart for the MentorLink Institute



What is your vision for “passing it on”?

You are now a steward of the heart issues in LEAD IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY. To whom will you pass this on? We encourage you to form another Mentor Group and facilitate others through what you have just finished, or perhaps facilitating this group through another MentorLink module.

“Passing it on” is not about mastering content, being an expert or a teacher. It is about being available to guide others through the mentoring experience. Will you continue to pass it on?

For additional help in “passing it on,” go to
<http://www.mentorlink.org/index.php/resources/passing-it-on/>

Want to facilitate another module?

There are two options – bring together your own local group, or simply sign up to mentor a group. We have a Mentor Orientation for new mentors. Go to the MentorLink website for links.
<http://www.mentorlink.org/index.php/resources/global-mentoring-project/facilitate-a-group/>

ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

The outline of this module was originally developed by Dr. Stacy Rinehart based partially on his books, *Upside Down: The Paradox of Servant Leadership*, (NavPress 1998) and *Living In Light Of Eternity* (with

his wife, Paula, NavPress 1986). This message has been tested, refined and shared by the global MentorLink community.

We are indebted to Dr. Larry Richards, the foremost expert on Christian education of our day and author of over 200 theology and Bible related books, who took the original material and added additional material to bring it into its current form.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

MentorLink International

P.O. Box 80506 • Raleigh, NC 27623 • USA

Ph: +919-841-5806

e-mail: info@mentorlink.org • web: www.mentorlink.org

MentorLink Modules

NOTE: THERE ARE MENTOR PROCESS GUIDES AVAILABLE FOR EACH MODULE



LEAD LIKE JESUS

The model of leadership in the world is clear. But Jesus calls His followers to a different model of leadership for the Kingdom. This module will assist you and your group in discovering this reality and in beginning to apply its implications to your lives, leadership, and mentoring.



LEAD IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Jesus had much to say about how He will evaluate leaders who serve Him. He also had many harsh words for false leaders. Jesus promises to reward those who serve Him faithfully. This module will provide understanding regarding the leader's personal advantage to having this eternal perspective.



BUILD HIS KINGDOM

Jesus came preaching the Kingdom. His Kingdom is the ultimate reality in this life and the life to come. However, many build their own empires, thinking they are building the Kingdom, while their very means and motives are actually at odds with His Kingdom. This module will assist you and your group in seeing the difference between building for the Kingdom and a leader building for his own empire. This module also will assist you in mentoring others regarding this awareness.



BUILD GRACE ENVIRONMENTS

How we mentor and treat people flows from our understanding of what Christ has done and is doing in us. This module will assist you and your group in a deeper understanding of the depth and riches of the Gospel of grace and its applications in your leadership and mentoring.



COLLABORATE AS LEADERS

Jesus mentored those he chose and was with them. Paul was always with someone who co-labored with him, mentoring him in the process. This module will assist you and your group in developing a practice of leading and mentoring in the context of partnership and community.



LEADERS FOLLOW JESUS

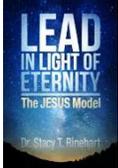
This module is intended for Christians operating in church, para-church ministries, Christian organizations, and the marketplace. Its intent is to help leaders evaluate the style of leadership exercised in their organization and bring it into harmony with the New Testament pattern. In this module, participants come to understand both the foundational concepts and the learning process which underlies MentorLink training.



LEADERS ABIDE IN JESUS

Some of the last words of Jesus to His Disciples were, "Abide in Me". The Apostle John reflects the importance of this, "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked." This module opens the door for mentors and mentees to look at their own walk with Jesus. It is from this "center" that we fellowship with the Son and with one another. It is also from this center that we bear fruit for His Kingdom.

ADDITIONAL MENTORLINK RESOURCES

-  **LEADER'S COVENANT**
A simple, yet profound description of true spiritual leadership in ten aspirational statements with Scripture passages.
-  **DAYS WITH JESUS**
Journey with Jesus to draw closer to His heart and discover how He wants us to live, lead and influence people. This video-based discipling tool uses The JESUS Film and thought-provoking questions for reflection and discussion.
-  **PASSING IT ON**
This seminar and manual are used for training groups in transformational mentoring. It will transform how leaders develop leaders.
-  **MENTORLINK INSTITUTE**
Learn to lead like Jesus and mentor others while participating in mentor groups. The MentorLink Institute is a tested and proven strategy that works through a network of partners and mentors.
-  **LEAD IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY**
This book by Dr. Stacy Rinehart is about Jesus and leading in His kingdom. *Lead in Light of Eternity: The JESUS Model* is for anyone who aspires to live and lead like Jesus in the workplace, the church, the mission field, or the world.
-  **TRANSFORMATIONAL VALUES**
Jesus' ways are to be our ways. The focus is on changing leaders from the inside-out and on the leader's character and heart. Five values shifts needed for leaders who want to move away from leading in the way of the flesh to leading more like Jesus.
-  **BLOGS AND BOOKS**
Check out blogs and books focused on the heart and development of servant leaders. Find practical mentoring tips, personal stories and solid biblical advice.

All resources can be found at www.mentorlink.org/index.php/resources/