



LEADERS ABIDE IN JESUS

Mentor Process Guide

Version 1.6



www.mentorlink.org

DEAR MENTOR,

Welcome to LEADERS ABIDE IN JESUS. 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.

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Overview: Leaders Abide in Jesus

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

1. Explore the necessity of a leader abiding in Christ.
2. Examine the nature of abiding.
3. Encourage the nurture of an abiding lifestyle.

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. What is "Abiding?"
2. Why Abide in Christ?
3. Exploring the Abiding Relationship, Part 1
4. Exploring the Abiding Relationship, Part 2
5. Exploring the Abiding Relationship, Part 3
6. A Lifetime of Abiding

Session Goals

1. What is “Abiding?”

This session will introduce you to the concept of “Abiding in Christ,” in the context of each person’s personal experience.

2. Why Abide in Christ?

In this session you and your mentor group will examine why maintaining an “abiding” relationship with Jesus is essential for all Christians, and especially for Christian leaders.

3. Exploring the Abiding Relationship, Part 1

In this session you and your mentor group will explore aspects of Jesus’ character, as expressed in prophecy and worked out in Christ’s life here on earth. In the process each will develop a clearer picture of the life of abiding to which we are called.

4. Exploring the Abiding Relationship, Part 2

In this session you and your mentor group will continue to explore aspects of Jesus’ character, as expressed in prophecy and worked out in Christ’s life here on earth. In the process each will develop a clearer picture of the life of abiding to which we are called.

5. Exploring the Abiding Relationship, Part 3

In this session your goal is to face the fact that Living in intimate relationship with God has a cost as well as great reward. Abiding . . . being so responsive to Christ that we express who he is in the world . . . isn’t a path to take if our goal is to advance ourselves or to gain position or fame.

6. A Life of Abiding

In this session your goal is to sum up what you have been learning together, and to make a shared commitment to abide in Jesus whatever the cost.

Leaders Abide in Jesus

[Mentor]

Using the “Leaders Abide in Jesus” Module

- 1** **Leaders Abide in Jesus** explores the spiritual foundation of any Christian leader’s ministry.
- 2** Other MentorLink Institute modules explore biblical principles and virtues required for effective servant leadership in the Kingdom.

Study Material And Assignments

- 3** It’s essential that each participant, 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 complete before meeting together, and (2) group meetings at which all share experiences and insights.

Leading The Group

- 4** This Mentor Process 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, completing the assignments before group meetings, and setting 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 will 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: What is “Abiding”?

This session will introduce you to the concept of “Abiding in Christ,” in the context of each person’s personal experience.

Check up

Invite each mentee to share about a time in his or her life he felt “off track” spiritually. Begin by sharing about such a time in your own life. Discuss how each of you felt at this time. What clues are there in your common experiences that might signal when you or others are not abiding in Christ?

Content

Share your definitions of “abiding in Christ.” Then move on to #5. Here the italicized words make it clear that Jesus is speaking of unity with himself and the Father, not [as some commentators have understood it] of an organizational oneness. Discuss what this passage indicates about an “abiding” relationship.

Impact

Invite responses to the position taken by Larry Richards in *A Practical Theology of Spirituality* (#6). What Richards suggests is that “abiding” has to do with our union with Christ “as we live our human life in the world.” Why might it be inadequate to see abiding simply in terms of traditional “spiritual disciplines” such as prayer, Bible study, etc., although obviously these have an important place?

Challenge

Read the six quotes of Jesus’ words found in John’s Gospel. Work together to briefly summarize “the secret of Christ’s abiding in the Father during his life on earth.” Then ask each mentee to select one quote to memorize, and challenge each to meditate on the selected quote daily during the coming week.

Prayer

Pray for each other individually, that Christ might become more real to each as each focus on abiding in Christ.

SESSION 2: Why Abide in Christ?

In this session you and your mentor group will examine why maintaining an “abiding” relationship with Jesus is essential for all Christians, and especially for Christian leaders.

Check up

Ask each to quote the verse(s) he or she memorized, and share the impact of that verse on his or her life during the past week. Did he or she sense a greater closeness to Jesus during the week? How did memorizing the passage affect him or her?

Content

Focus first on the word picture your mentor group drew of abiding in Christ. What feeling words did they include? Then discuss their response of 1 Peter 4:12-19. Have they experienced this in their lives and ministries? Have they seen their experiences as pruning? How would a believer who understood suffering as pruning respond differently to difficult times than would a person who saw it as punishment?

Follow up with discussion of their responses to #4. No experience of Jesus threatened his sense of union with the Father, or his commitment to live in that union.

Impact

The Isaiah 5 and Galatians 5 passages make it clear that “fruit” in both testaments is to be understood primarily in terms of a transformed and Christ-like character. God’s primary focus is on what he accomplishes in us, not on what we do for him. In fact productiveness in ministry is directly associated with inner transformation. Invite your group members to share how difficulties have drawn them closer to the Lord and have refined their character. Looking back, in what ways do they feel differently about their trials now that when they were going through them?

Challenge

Challenge each mentee to memorize another of Jesus’ sayings (#3, page 12), and make it his or her focus during the coming week..

Prayer

Drawing on what has been shared so far, let each mentee give thanks for the trials experienced by one of the group members, and what God has done in his or her life through those trials.

SESSION 3: Exploring the Abiding Relationship, Part 1

In this session you and your mentor group will explore aspects of Jesus' character, as expressed in prophecy and worked out in Christ's life here on earth. In the process each will develop a clearer picture of the life of abiding to which we are called.

Check up

Ask each to quote the verse(s) he or she memorized, and share the impact of that verse on his or her life during the past week. Did he or she sense a greater closeness to Jesus during the week? How did memorizing the passage affect him or her?

Content

Spend plenty of time with your mentor group on Isaiah 61:1-3. Don't settle for ordinary descriptive terms, but probe deeper by suggesting images like beauty of character, graciousness of temperament, etc. How would association with Jesus make people feel? How would they respond to him?

Impact

As your mentor group describe the situations in Jesus' life where his actions expressed the character of God as revealed in Isaiah 61, make sure they're aware of the feelings and reactions of those who benefited from Jesus ministry, and of those who witnessed it. In many cases these responses were far from appropriate!

Challenge

Your mentor group is likely to find it difficult to describe situations in which they lived their lives, as Jesus did, in union with God and expressing his Isaiah 61 character. Discuss why we are skilled at communicating verbally, when the heart of communicating God's character is non-verbal. Words count. But actions validate words.

The heart of this session is the discussion of the statement in #6. What really is the central issue in abiding? And how focused are we on knowing Jesus and expressing him in all we are and do?

Prayer

Take time to talk with Jesus and express your desire to be more like him, and to communicate his love and grace to others.

SESSION 4: Exploring the Abiding Relationship, Part 2

In this session you and your mentor group will continue to explore aspects of Jesus' character, as expressed in prophecy and worked out in Christ's life here on earth. In the process each will develop a clearer picture of the life of abiding to which we are called.

Check up

Share. What have you become more sensitive to during the week as a result of what we've studied so far? What is your biggest challenge to constantly abiding in Christ during your days?

Content

Discuss the Isaiah 42 passage and what it reveals about the character of God. Explore each incident your mentor group chose. How does it express God's character? How does it show that Jesus was abiding in God?

Impact

Thoroughly explore the personal incident each person has to share. What was each thinking in the situation described? How did he or she feel? Did his or her actions effectively communicate Christ's character? In what way?

Also discuss whether it is feeling more comfortable to realize that abiding in Christ is living Jesus' life in the world? [That is, staying close to Jesus so he lives out his life through you.]

Challenge

Spend at least fifteen minutes at the beginning of the day focusing on a Bible passage that reveals something of the nature and character of God. Praise God for what you discover, and invite the Holy Spirit to take control of our life, to lead you and empower you.

Prayer

Share any challenges you may be having in your lives. Pray for each other that you might respond to those challenges as Christ would.

SESSION 5: Exploring the Abiding Relationship, Part 3

In this session your goal is to face the fact that Living in intimate relationship with God has a cost as well as great reward. Abiding . . . being so responsive to Christ that we express who he is in the world . . . isn't a path to take if our goal is to advance ourselves or to gain position or fame.

Check up

Take time for each person to read the passage he or she chose to focus on [see Session 4 Challenge], and to share how these 15 minutes a day impacted his or her life.

Content

Discuss the Isaiah 53 and Matthew 20 passages and what each reveals about the character of God. Also discuss the other passages from the Gospels your mentor group selected as expressions of this aspect of God's character. What do we learn about abiding in Christ from them?

Impact

Thoroughly explore the personal incident each person has to share. What was each thinking when in the situation? What were the pressures that made it difficult to act in the same selfless way that Christ acted? What was the benefit to the person(s) being ministered to that outweighed any benefits your mentee might have derived from acting in a less selfless manner?

Challenge

Spend at least fifteen minutes at the beginning of the day focusing Matthew 20:29-32. What were the pressures on Jesus that might have made him insensitive to the needs of the blind men? How much did it cost Jesus to set aside his own burdens and ask, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Prayer

Invite each to tell something about the prayer he or she wrote in preparation for this session and why this was on his or her heart. After each explanation, pray the written prayers together.

SESSION 6: A life of Abiding

In this session your goal is to sum up what you have been learning together, and to make a shared commitment to abide in Jesus whatever the cost.

Check up

Let each share how God has been answering the prayer he or she wrote at the conclusion of Session 5.

Content

Let each person share the “most important” thing he or she got from each of the sessions. Take the sessions one by one, rather than having one person go through all five at a time. Be sure to share what you found most important as well. As you work through this review together you’ll find that the Lord may have spoken in different ways to the different members of your group.

Impact

Talk together about the path Jesus chose as expressed in Philippians 2:4-11. As you discuss this passage encourage your mentor group to express how the passage makes them feel and what it makes them realize. Be sure you check to see what verb each chose to complete statement C, under #3, page 27.

Challenge

If your mentor group have found the discipline of spending 15 minutes a day focusing on a prophecy, Gospel incident or other NT passage that reveals Jesus, encourage them to continue the practice as an aide to abiding.

Talk about other MentorLink modules you may wish to study together.

Prayer

Offer prayers for each other, with each person seeking leading from the Holy Spirit concerning what specifically to pray for each of the others.

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 **LEADERS ABIDE IN JESUS** 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 LEADERS ABIDE IN JESUS. 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/>

Acknowledgement

We are indebted to Dr. Larry Richards for writing this LEADERS ABIDE IN JESUS Mentor Process Guide.



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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/