

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Mentoring

To: \_\_\_\_\_ (Faith Mentor) From: \_\_\_\_\_ (Student Mentee)

## Help! I was asked to be a Mentor.

### 3 Tips:

1. Don't Panic. Students think you are cooler than you think you are.
2. Remember that you have important life experience to share, and students do too! Students want to hear from you, and they want you to listen and learn from them.
3. You don't have to have all of the answers. In fact, it is much better when you don't.

**It's not as scary as it sounds! And remember... God equips those whom he calls.**

### Questions? Contact:

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## Hello Prospective Mentor!

At King of Kings, part of our vision is feeding spiritual hunger and the hunger to be in community with others. During their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, students are asked to choose a faith mentor, other than their parent, to meet with 6-8 times during the year. Faith mentoring offers each confirmation youth the opportunity to see and learn how another adult (besides their immediate family) lives out their lives and faith, and a chance to explore and make sense of their own faith.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the information needed to understand Faith Mentoring at King of Kings and to help you make a decision about participating and accepting your invitation.

Let me suggest the following:

- **First**, read through this packet. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to either myself or the student who has approached you.
- **Next**, take a day or two to pray about your decision.

## How do you know if mentoring is right for you?

We are looking for "AAA" people – **Available, Authentic, and Affirming**. Students are hoping for someone who will be honest and real with them, open and willing to listen as well as share, and affirming of their experiences, feelings, and faith. A faith mentor needs to appreciate and care for their mentee/student just as they are, and remind them that they are loved by God. If you're reading this letter, there is a significant student in your life who sees **you** as a caring adult with whom they can discuss faith and life.

**Faith Mentors (even prospective ones!) are invited to join us for the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcoming on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5pm** to hear more about their role, ask questions, and get acquainted with the program. Plus, it's a great chance to spend time with your potential mentee!

## Have you made your decision?

Tell your student mentee what you've decided either way. Once you've committed to them, fill out the attached form and either you or your mentee can return it to the Front Office at King of Kings. Forms must be turned in no later than **September 30th, 2018!** We will be in contact with you shortly after your form is turned in. If you're not able to commit at this time, thank you for considering joining us, and we encourage you to be in continued prayer for the student who asked you!

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Mentoring

If you say YES! to this opportunity, you're committing to:

- **Being Prayerful** – This process starts and ends with prayer. Be in prayer about whether you should accept your mentoring invitation, and for the student you may/will be mentoring.
- **Being Equipped** – In order to make this a safe and meaningful experience for both you and your mentee, all mentors are equipped by participating in a required orientation meeting on either:

**September 16 @ 5:00PM -OR- September 30 @ 4:00PM.**

You will get an overview of your weekly conversations, and go over safe child policies.

- **Being Present** - One of the most important things you can do as a mentor is simply show up.

Mentors and students are expected to:

- **Meet together 6-8 times between October and May.** Some pairs have found it best to meet approx. 1x/month, and others wait for a specific season like Lent (Mar-Apr) or Christmas Break. It's up to you and your mentee to schedule times that will work for you.
- **Attend 2 Workshops (student's choice).** Workshops to choose from are:
  - "What is Confirmation?" at 1pm on Nov. 4
  - "Science & Faith" at 1pm on Feb. 10
  - "Loss & Grief" at 1pm on Apr. 14
- **Note: Being present doesn't have to be in person!** Phone calls, facetime, and skype/google hangouts are all great ways to connect from afar. Even though we ask mentors to participate in workshops with students, parents or other trusted adults can fill in for those in person roles as needed.

**May the Lord bless you as you consider and make this decision!**

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Do I need to be a member of King of Kings to be a Faith Mentor?**

No. We love seeing connections being made among our faith community and encourage students to pick someone within the congregation that they know, but it is not a requirement. Students are welcome to choose an extended family member, family friend, coach, teacher, community member, or another adult they know outside of the congregation.

### **Can I meet with my mentee via facetime, google hangouts, phone calls, etc.?**

If your mentee's parents give approval for this, yes! If you cannot attend orientation or workshops because of your geographical location, please indicate this on the **green** registration sheet and Kelsey will be in contact with you and your mentee.

### **Can two students have the same mentor?**

Yes. To be considerate of the experience for everyone involved, please no more than 2 students per mentor.

### **Can a high school student be a Faith Mentor?**

Yes. They must be at least 2 grades ahead of the student (11<sup>th</sup> grade or higher) and not part of the student's immediate family.