



GILMER
CLC

The CLC Mentoring Program:

The CLC Program is unique because of our desire to see students integrate a commitment to God and His plans into all areas of their lives. We want mentors, students, parents, and the church to all be involved in this process.

What is Mentoring?

What is mentoring? God's desire is for people to know Him. Person to person, hand to hand, the Bible tells us the story of God revealing himself to us through His Son, and then sending us to bring his message to the world. Mentoring is part of that Biblical process of discipleship in which individuals from older generations build intentional relationships with individuals in emerging generations for the sake of establishing convictions, cultivating character, and building community.

Simply put, young people need adults to come alongside them, to teach them, encourage them, challenge them, promote their growth and maturity, and advocate for them. We want to see young people grow, flourish, and be fruitful in life.

Proper mentoring is a Biblical pattern and is evidenced in the lives and ministries of Moses, Solomon, Elijah, Jesus, and Paul. The transmission of convictions, character, and community from one generation to the next were of the utmost importance for the Biblical writers (see for example Deuteronomy 6, Titus 2).

What is the Need?

The need for mentors in the lives of students is greater today than at any time in United States history. This generation of parents has the dubious distinction of being the first that is largely unconcerned with bringing its young to maturity. Consider the following:

- Over one third of Gilmer County's children will go to bed tonight without a father in their home.
- The National Research Council has conservatively estimated that nearly half of our young people are at risk of leading unproductive lives.
- The majority of young people ages 16-29 have a negative view of the church and its impact on the world. Less than 1 in 5 young people in this age bracket will be in church in Gilmer County this Sunday.
- Young people have embraced moral relativism, the majority (even of those who claim to be Christian) seeing nothing wrong with premarital sex, drug use, cheating to get ahead, etc.
- Nearly half of the young people in Ellijay have been abused physically, sexually or both.
- Nearly half of the young people in Ellijay have had suicidal thoughts.
- Nearly half of the young people in Ellijay have experimented with tobacco, drugs, and alcohol.
- Half of the young women in Ellijay have hurt themselves physically at least once.
- Young people overwhelmingly express apprehension at growing up and making significant life decisions, the age of "adolescence" now reaching 30 years old.
- They are what Sean McDowell calls the "loneliest generation" because their relationships are largely surface level and mediated through technology.

This is just a rough sampling of statistics drawn from demographic and sociological surveys and from surveys conducted at the CLC. Spend time with any young person and you find that even students without major red flags that stand out in statistics have a deep need for healthy, encouraging relationships with experienced and loving mentors.

What Do We Hope To Achieve?

Our purpose is to facilitate mentoring relationships as part of a holistic discipleship process in which a mentor intentionally seeks to establish convictions, cultivate character, and build community in the life of a young person in conjunction with his or her parents, and church. Our objectives are:

- 1) We will show students the love of Christ. Many students have no one in their life who loves them unconditionally, cares about them, or takes an interest in their life. We want every student in Gilmer County to have someone who cares about them and loves them.
- 2) We will strive to help students establish Biblical convictions. We live in a chaotic time that is unclear on truth. Student culture is largely relativistic, meaning everyone determines what is right in their own eyes. This standard is inadequate for life. We will help students learn to trust God and his Word as the ultimate authority in life.
- 3) We will cultivate character in the lives of students. Knowledge about God is not enough, which is why large group teaching alone is not enough. As mentors, we will model lives lived in obedience to God and demonstrating love of others. We will help students learn to live as Christians in the real world.
- 4) We will help to build community. Community is a network of people who share a common culture, goals, values, and relationships. Students need help learning how to live in healthy relationships with real people in their families, schools, churches, and county. Mentors will help foster these relationships. This involved striving to strengthen the proteges relationship with his family and with a local church.

Mentor Job Description:

- > Meet with my protege once a week for a minimum of one year as a standard, and never less than three times in a month
- > Attend one training session in August before the mentoring process begins, submit to an annual criminal background check
- > Seek to please God in all areas of my life with my words, reactions, and actions
- > Live by scriptural principles (for example, Ephesians 4:17-5:21)
- > Share my life and words in a way that reflects the Gospel
- > Make choices that will reflect being an excellent example and avoid being a stumbling block
- > Grow in my relationship with God through prayer, scripture reading, fellowship, and involvement in a local church
- > Refrain from any activity that may cause physical or emotional harm to my protege

How Churches Can Help:

- > Provide potential Mentors
- > Provide potential Proteges
- > Encourage a Mentor in your church, invite the Protege and their family to church events, etc.
- > Pray for the Mentors, Proteges, and the Mentoring Ministry