READY TO USE MENTORING

# Spiritual résumé

One of the prominent uses of mentoring is for career growth and progression. In speaking with a 16-year-old this week who was very nervous about trying to create a CV to apply for a weekend job, I was struck by the need for us to help our Christian young people entering the world of work – and also for the spiritual parallels we could employ alongside that.

Whether or not you intend to apply for paid jobs (or volunteer roles), creating a simple one-page résumé is a useful activity in its own right as a way of condensing your thoughts and filtering information about yourself into a clear and useful order. It can identify gaps in your development and highlight where to invest time and money in your experience and skills (eg courses or conferences to attend, training to do or books to read). It can help crystalise your goals and aspirations and even push you to create a one-sentence mission statement for your life. It can also help focus your aims for how and why to demonstrate or share your faith.

## With your mentee

Spend an hour working on a one-page CV with your mentee. They should list all their qualifications, ‘relevant’ or not. Other headings could be:

* Interests and hobbies.
* Skills – even if it doesn’t seem relevant; soft skills, people skills, IT skills and transferable skills – preferably with an example to back each up.
* Work experience. Include volunteering, church roles and even informal roles in the home or school.
* References. Get two or three trusted adults to write a short character reference (this may well be the most valuable part of this activity!).
* Contact info. Profile photo?

You could ask them to create the document as more of an annotated mood board – with headlines, images, doodles, links and anything else that creates a feeling of who you are and where you would like to end up in your career and also in your character and life experiences…

For a more faith-based application, ask them to write a spiritual CV, listing things like their ‘spiritual’ experience and skills – eg the ability to pray out loud, their enjoyment of explaining Bible verses to others or making Christianity understandable to non-Christian friends. Do they display any of the fruit of the Spirit in greater measure (see Galatians 5:22-23)? They should list these as recognition of the character God has put in them and areas of spiritual gifts that they would like to grow in. Do they have aspirations around serving God in prophetic ways, pastoral ways, leadership, evangelism or developing (apostolic) initiatives such as community groups, expressions of church, outreach or justice activities etc?

Perhaps you could even create roles / role descriptions in your church or youth ministry and ask them to ‘apply’ with a CV as a way of identifying their strengths and weaknesses, and explore what they might like to try or aspire to be involved in. Off the back of this, you might want to set them some tasks through which to develop what they need to be able to fulfil roles in the future that they are not ready for just yet.

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