

Bringing It All Together

Celebrating a year together

Hopefully this past year of mentoring has been a year of spiritual growth for you. What has transpired this past year is what God wanted for this period of your life. If He thought you weren't o.k. with it then he would have chosen something else. The challenges, the pains, the joys, and the plain moments all weave together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to create growth. You may remember the Eugene Peterson quote on maturity from the introduction:

The human task is to become mature, not only in our bodies and emotions and minds within ourselves but also in our relationship with God and other persons...Birth is quick and easy in comparison to growth with is endless and complex¹.

Our purpose in this final session is twofold—to savour what God has done this past year and bring to a conclusion the structured mentoring sessions—what some call “celebrate and terminate”. You may also find that you still have something “unfinished” from one of the previous sessions that you want to discuss before you celebrate and terminate. If so, do that in the first part of this final session and finish with some savouring of this past year and blessing one another.

Savouring simply means dwelling on something so that you can enjoy it completely. To savour what God has done this past year we will use the consolation and desolation questions.

Savouring what God has done

1. Where in the past year's mentoring did you feel most cared for by God?
 - a. Tell or retell this experience
 - b. What would it be like for you to savour this over the next months?
2. What in the past year's mentoring were the most challenging or stretching moments?
 - a. How did they fit on the endless and complex journey to maturity?
 - b. How will you see these moments as part of God's invitation to you to be formed in Christ?
3. Where did you feel most distant from God in this year's mentoring journey?
 - a. What is similar and different in your perspective on that distant experience looking back today?
 - b. How will this experience and memory become part of your story?²

¹ *Practice Resurrection*, p. 3.

Bringing the Mentoring Relationship to a Close

1. Give some feedback to each other on what it was like to be together in the mentoring process.
 - 1.1. What was the experience like for you to be the mentor or the mentee?
 - What did you learn about trusting the Holy Spirit?
 - What did you learn about listening deeply to both God and the mentor/mentee's story?
 - What did you learn about acceptance of the other where they are at and grace to do so?
 - 1.2. How did you "find your role" during the process?
 - 1.3. What have you learned about being in a mentoring relationship that you will incorporate into future experience?
 - 1.4. Were there any uncomfortable moments? Anything to discuss or learn here?
 - 1.5. What will you most miss about these times together?
2. Redefine your relationship—from mentor/mentee to community members
 - 2.1. How do you think your relationships will change now that the mentoring sessions are completed?
 - 2.2. Where in the community life at Cap will you have an ongoing albeit different connection?
 - What might that look like?
3. Verbalize "what's next"
 - 3.1. What's next for you in terms of growth and service?
 - 3.2. Who, what, when—if you know?
4. Blessing one another
 - 4.1. A few things about blessings
 - In the Jewish tradition, every blessing prayer begins by blessing God
 - Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, by whose word all things come into being *or*
 - Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has made the works of creation *or*
 - Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who feeds all living things
 - To pronounce a blessing puts you as close to God as you can get. This is what God does. To pronounce a blessing is to see someone from God's perspective—you bless what is with God's mercy rather than bless what you think it should be. ³
 - 4.2. Bless each other as you bring this mentoring relationship to a close.

² What Nouwen called the experience of "The Hidden God"—*The simple fact is we often don't know how God is at work in our lives. We are surrounded by the unseen and the unknown. What we can say is that God is with us in the unexplainable absurdities of life.*

³ *An Altar in The World*; p. 199, Barbara Brown Taylor