

JUST FOR MENTORS

Tips, inspiration and encouragement as you mentor men and women in prison



JUNE 2022

Dear Mentor,

Hendrina and I recently had the opportunity to travel and reconnect with a community of Crossroads mentors. The trip was incredibly fruitful, and it left me energized and encouraged. During this trip, an opportunity arose to share about our ministry with the congregation of a very supportive faith community. After our presentation, the pastor began his teaching and read the first chapter of James.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like” (James 1:22–24).

By the time the pastor approached the final verses of the chapter, I found my mind drifting to the faces and names that I felt needed to “do what it says”!

Then came the reminder that jolted me from my thoughts:

“But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do” (James 1:25).

That church service was not the only time I have found myself shifting blame or deflecting responsibility onto others. It happens more often than I want to admit while reading Scripture. But when I do this, I risk missing the lesson God is giving me through His words.

As you focus on the specific Bible passages within each lesson you receive from a student, think about what the Scripture means for you and how it challenges you and impacts your own life and actions. After pondering how you can apply the passages to your life—how you can be a doer of the Word and not just a hearer—share your discoveries with your student.

I love James’s mirror analogy in verses 23–24. It is a warning to each one of us: we must look within our own hearts and act on what we have learned, or we may quickly forget God’s teachings.

“For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous” (Romans 2:13).

Sitting in that church pew, my mind quickly wandered and began assigning blame. But a gentle nudge from God reminded me that I must be diligent with my thoughts, remembering what I have learned from His Word so I can do what it says.

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery
Church Mobilization Director

Have a question? You can contact the mentor support team at mentor@cpministries.org or 800-668-2450.

NEWS & NOTES

Mentor Community Gatherings

Join us as we gather virtually to equip and empower one another to serve our students well!

Tuesday, June 21, at 8:00 p.m. (EST)

Wednesday, June 22, at 3:00 p.m. (EST)

URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84182956475?pwd=QWs1OGlYZTZlejVOSkcyOEc5NW9SUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Reminder: No Cards in Tier 1 Lessons

Please do not put greeting cards or note cards in a Tier 1 student's lesson. Because prison mailing restrictions are subject to frequent change, a card included with a lesson may cause the lesson itself to be rejected.

If you would like to send a card to your Tier 2 or Tier 3 student, be sure to check your mentor portal account to verify the facility's restrictions first. Only send a greeting card to your Tier 2 or Tier 3 student if their facility accepts greeting cards, and ALWAYS send it in a white envelope with Crossroads' return address.

New Partnership

Crossroads recently formed a partnership with a ministry in Tennessee called Men of Valor. According to their mission statement, "Men of Valor is committed to winning men in prison to Jesus Christ and discipling them. Our purpose is to equip them to reenter society as men of integrity—becoming givers to the community rather than takers." Men of Valor also has a significant reentry and aftercare presence in Tennessee.

Men of Valor's staff members visit prisons statewide every day. They will be actively sharing the ministry of Crossroads within the prison system to help us reach more students and more mentors throughout Tennessee. Learn more about their ministry at men-of-valor.org.