

# JUST FOR MENTORS

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



DECEMBER 2024

Dear Mentor,

Recently, my wife Hendrina and I attended a women's support group where each participant was deeply impacted by the incarceration of a loved one. I quickly realized that it was Hendrina's openness and honesty that explained why we were there. As she shared about the challenges she and our children faced during my incarceration and after, her memories brought tears and added deep relevance to the discussion. The conversations among the participants were raw and difficult, with stories that are still unfinished.

These women are enduring more than words can fully express. There was understandable anger, frustration, and uncertainty about how to handle the challenges they face. Yet one young woman shared her story of watching her father be handcuffed and taken away when she was just a little girl. As she grew into adulthood with her father in prison, she wrestled with emotions and anger, feeling that her father had chosen his life of crime and incarceration over caring for her. However, her story took an unexpected turn. She expressed gratitude for his incarceration, believing that if he hadn't gone to prison, the streets would have claimed his life. Today, her father is out of prison and a pastor in the community. She's convinced that Jesus was with him in prison, and it was there that he found Him.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." I don't fully understand this truth yet, but I do know it tells us that evil does not have the last word in whatever challenges we face.

*"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15).*

In John 10:10, Jesus says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." He offers us abundant life filled with peace and joy, lived out as we express love, honesty, and kindness (Galatians 5:22-23). Yet, even within this truth, life brings challenges. Enduring painful times can be exhausting and can cloud our joy and peace.

In those moments, we must remember that we are not alone (Matthew 28:20). God is working in all things and is with us (Isaiah 41:10), just as He was with the father of the young woman who was hurting and confused. We can find Him in the darkest places and in the quietest whispers during our loneliest times (1 Kings 19:12). He gives us the strength to endure (2 Corinthians 12:9) and the peace that can only be found in Him (John 14:27).

As we approach this Christmas season, remind your students that Jesus came to be with them, offering peace and joy as we lay our burdens down. God is with us, ensuring that sin and evil will not prevail (Psalm 21:11).

Goodness is prevailing in the women's group. Though the stories are difficult, the safe space to share brings compassion, trust, and hope. They are enduring together, understanding that they are not alone. May each of you experience the love and hope of Jesus in this season of remembrance.

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery  
Director of Church Engagement

**Have a question?** You can contact the mentor support team at [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org) or **800-668-2450**.

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# NEWS & NOTES

## Mentor Q&A

This month, we will explore our website to review the resources available to you and how to best utilize them. We will also discuss our mentor training portal, where you can find ongoing training modules designed to enhance your understanding of mentoring and provide insights into the experiences of those who have been incarcerated.

If you have questions about resources you'd like to discuss during the session, please email them to [GatheringsQA@cpministries.org](mailto:GatheringsQA@cpministries.org). For questions specific to your student, contact [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org) or call **(800) 668-2450**. We will be sure to get back you with you.

Date: Tuesday, December 17, at 3:00 p.m. (ET)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

## Reporting Student Progress

We want to remind you of the importance of submitting your students' progress reports. These reports confirm that you received your students' lessons, completed them, and mailed them back, while also providing us with insight into how the students performed. The best way to report this is through the mentor portal. If you need assistance setting up your account, please contact us at [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org) or **(800) 668-2450**.

## Thank You!

In the past six months, we have worked to pair students with one-on-one mentors earlier in their Crossroads journeys. During this time, thanks to our dedicated mentors, we have successfully paired 879 students with mentors!

We would like to maintain this momentum. If you are available to take on an additional Tier 2 student or want to become a one-on-one mentor for the first time, please reach out to us at [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org) or **(800) 668-2450**. Keep spreading the word about Crossroads and sharing your personal stories of what God has done through your mentoring journey, so more students can experience a Christ-centered relationship as they study God's Word.

## Reformatted Lessons Are Ready to Launch

As of December 1, 2024, we will begin mailing our reformatted lessons to students! As a mentor, you can expect to see these changes starting in January. Please note that this will be a transition period during which you may encounter both lesson formats. Here are some quick facts about this change:

- Student lessons have been reformatted from booklets to double-sided 8.5-by-11-inch sheets of paper.
- They will be printed in black and white.
- The lessons will no longer be stapled but will be clearly labeled with page numbers to help keep them organized.
- All Tier 1 and Tier 2 lessons now have a similar look and flow to enhance cohesion in our curriculum.
- The content of the lessons remains unchanged.
- Mentors can still use the same answer keys. (We revised the answer key for *Who Are You?* and *¿Quién Es Usted?* so it no longer mirrors the old lesson format. The revised answer key is available on our website, and mentors can request a physical copy to be mailed.)
- The postage cost for mailing the lessons will remain the same.

For further questions, please contact [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org).

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## Scripture Reading and Prayer Guide: The Book of John

Each quarter, our students receive a *Just for Students* newsletter that includes a Scripture reading and prayer guide. We encourage you to join our students by following this prayer guide over the next few months as well. As you spend time in prayer and Scripture each day, we pray that God reveals more of Himself to you. You can find the *Just for Students* newsletters, including current and prior Scripture reading and prayer guides, online at [cpministries.org/resources/mentors/just-for-students](http://cpministries.org/resources/mentors/just-for-students).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Reading Topic</b>	<b>Prayer Focus</b>
Dec. 1	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh	Pray that Jesus is "born" in the hearts of your neighbors
Dec. 2	John 1:19-34	John the Baptist testifies	Pray for opportunities to testify about Jesus
Dec. 3	John 1:35-5	Jesus chooses His disciples	Thank God for choosing you to know His Son
Dec. 4	John 2:1-12	Jesus' first miracle	Pray for the miracle of salvation for your loved ones
Dec. 5	John 2:13-25	Jesus clears the temple	Pray for our country, political leaders, and pastors
Dec. 6	John 3:1-15	You must be born again	Pray for spiritual understanding
Dec. 7	John 3:16-21	God so loved the world	Pray for increased faith
Dec. 8	John 3:22-36	John the Baptist testifies again	Pray that God increases in your life and you decrease
Dec. 9	John 4:1-26	The Samaritan woman	Pray for God to reveal any hidden sin in your life
Dec. 10	John 4:27-54	Jesus follows His Father's will	Pray for God's will in your life and those around you
Dec. 11	John 5:1-15	The pool at Bethesda	Pray for physical healing for your loved ones
Dec. 12	John 5:16-30	Calling His disciples	Pray for the desire to be discipled by Jesus
Dec. 13	John 5:31-47	Glory that comes from God	Pray that God is glorified and that you grow in humility
Dec. 14	John 6:1-24	Jesus feeds the 5,000	Pray for God's Word to spread in your facility
Dec. 15	John 6:25-59	Jesus is the bread of life	Pray for spiritual nourishment
Dec. 16	John 6:60-71	Many disciples desert Jesus	Pray for strength to stand firm in your faith
Dec. 17	John 7:1-24	Jesus attends festival in secret	Pray for a grateful and worshipful heart
Dec. 18	John 7:25-52	Was Jesus the Messiah?	Pray for those who are unsure about who Jesus is
Dec. 19	John 8:1-30	Go and leave your life of sin	Pray for help in overcoming sinful habits
Dec. 20	John 8:31-59	The enemies of Jesus	Pray for those who may hate you because of your faith
Dec. 21	John 9:1-34	Healing of a blind man	Pray for physical healing for those in need
Dec. 22	John 9:35-4	Spiritual blindness	Pray for increased spiritual sight
Dec. 23	John 10:1-21	Jesus, the good shepherd	Pray to follow Jesus more closely
Dec. 24	John 10:22-42	The leaders want to kill Jesus	Pray for those who reject God
Dec. 25	John 11:1-44	The death of Lazarus	Pray for spiritual renewal in your facility
Dec. 26	John 11:45-57	Plotting to have Jesus killed	Pray for the "church inside the fences" of prisons
Dec. 27	John 12:1-19	Jesus anointed at Bethany	Pray, expressing your love for God
Dec. 28	John 12:20-50	Jesus predicts His own death	Pray to hear God's voice more clearly
Dec. 29	John 13:1-17	Washing the disciples' feet	Ask God to show you someone to serve today
Dec. 30	John 13:18-38	Jesus' betrayal by a disciple	Pray that your life honors God
Jan. 1	John 14:1-14	Comfort for His disciples	Pray for peace in your heart
Jan. 2	John 14:15-31	The promise of the Holy Spirit	Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit
Jan. 3	John 15:1-16	Jesus is the vine	Pray for help to rest in Jesus, the vine
Jan. 4	John 15:17-27	The persecution of believers	Pray for spiritual protection for Christians in your facility
Jan. 5	John 16:1-15	Jesus explains His death	Pray for spiritual understanding
Jan. 6	John 16:16-32	Grief will turn to joy	Pray for God's joy in your life
Jan. 7	John 17:1-19	Jesus speaks to His Father	Pray to know the Father as Jesus asks
Jan. 8	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for all believers	Pray for believers around the world
Jan. 9	John 18:1-14	Jesus arrested	Pray for new commitments at your facility
Jan. 10	John 18:15-27	Questioned by the high priest	Pray for the right words when questioned about Jesus
Jan. 11	John 18:28-40	Pilate, the Roman governor	Pray for your warden and facility staff
Jan. 12	John 19:1-16	Jesus sentenced to death	Pray for strength during your remaining time in prison
Jan. 13	John 19:17-27	Jesus goes to the cross	Thank God for Jesus' obedience
Jan. 14	John 19:28-42	Jesus' body placed in the tomb	Pray, asking God where you need to make amends
Jan. 15	John 20:1-10	The empty tomb	Spend time quietly in God's presence, worshiping
Jan. 16	John 20:11-18	Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene	Pray for God's love to fill you afresh
Jan. 17	John 20:19-31	Jesus appears to the disciples	Pray for your Crossroads mentors
Jan. 18	John 21:1-14	Jesus on the Sea of Galilee	Pray for new salvations in your facility
Jan. 19	John 21:15-25	Peter, build my church	Ask God to use you to encourage others