

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



MARCH 2025

Dear Mentor,

As we live our lives, each of us has a story. I recently accompanied a close friend to his chemotherapy appointment. As we stepped into the clinic, I observed several people coming in for treatment, overheard conversations, and watched the activity around me. We were in a large room with many small cubicles, each barely large enough to hold a patient's chair and a guest. The treatment took most of the day, and I began to wonder about their stories—the stories of their lives.

These stories likely included experiences such as what it meant to be a new father, mother, or grandparent. Perhaps one person could share how they were hired to sweep floors at a company and eventually rose to become the plant supervisor. I imagine there were some who didn't know Jesus growing up, but through a miracle, He is now in their hearts.

"Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized." (Acts 9:18)

I love hearing stories, and with each one, I seem to learn something new, gain encouragement, or find myself challenged to see things from a new perspective. I especially appreciate stories where I can see how God's hand weaves through them. A story tied to a topic or point we are trying to express can foster connection, spark imagination, and bring clarity to how it applies to our lives.

However, not everyone is comfortable sharing details of their lives. They may not feel it's relevant, appropriate, or valuable to the point they are expressing. There may also be embarrassment or a sense of vulnerability tied to doing so. Yet when I hear expressions of failures and lessons learned, the story becomes even more powerful, showing that God is working within each of us.

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." (Philippians 2:13)

As you prepare to write to your student, consider sharing a part of your personal story in your letter. The details don't need to be perfect or rehearsed. For example, here's a reflection I wrote while reflecting on the *Who Are You?* lessons:

I never asked myself the question, "Who do you believe you are?" until I was over 30, after making some very hurtful decisions. Looking back, I wonder how my life might have unfolded had I seriously asked myself that question at 18. Could I have done this, or would I have done that? What I've come to realize is that questions like this often lead to regret. But I believe I asked myself this question at the right time, in God's timing, as the first step toward a new life in Christ. It's clear to me now that it's never too late to ask such questions, and now is a good time to ask ourselves who we believe we are.

Each person in that treatment room has a life story they can tell. All of us are molded and shaped (Isaiah 64:8) as we navigate life, giving us a unique story to tell. How are you using yours?

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery
Director of Church Engagement

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

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NEWS & NOTES

Mentor Q&A: You Have the Floor!

This month, there won't be a preset topic—we're dedicating the meeting to answering your questions! To help us prepare and provide the best answers, please email your questions to us in advance at GatheringsQA@cpministries.org.

We are transitioning from Zoom to Microsoft Teams for our virtual gatherings going forward and will require registrations to keep our meeting secure and to ensure we can follow up with any questions that come up during the meeting. **Please use the QR code below to register and receive a reminder email closer to the gathering.**



Date: Tuesday, March 18, at 3:00 p.m. (ET)

Open your phone's camera to scan the QR code and register online.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Greeting Cards Reminder

With Easter around the corner, we want to remind you about greeting card guidelines. Please do not include greeting or note cards in a Tier 1 student's lesson. Prison mailing restrictions for cards often change, and including one could result in the lesson being rejected.

If you'd like to send a card to a Tier 2 or Tier 3 student, first check your mentor portal account to confirm the facility's restrictions. If allowed, please use a plain white envelope and avoid glitter or extra embellishments.

New Curriculum

Exciting news! We're preparing to launch brand-new curriculum for our students—a project that's been years in the making. In the upcoming months, students will begin receiving these updated lessons. We'll provide you with all the information you need soon—stay tuned!

Scripture Reading and Prayer Guide: Pauline Epistles

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.

Date	Passage	Reading Topic	Prayer Focus
Mar. 1	Ephesians 1:1–2	Paul's Greeting	Pray for God's peace to guide our relationships
Mar. 2	Ephesians 1:3–8	Spiritual Blessings in Christ	Pray to embrace the riches of your inheritance in Christ
Mar. 3	Ephesians 1:9–14	Sealed with the Spirit	Pray for a deeper joy in your salvation
Mar. 4	Ephesians 1:15–23	Thanksgiving and Prayer	Pray for God to strengthen our hope in Jesus
Mar. 5	Ephesians 2:1–4	Made Alive in Christ	Pray for the strength to let go of old sin patterns
Mar. 6	Ephesians 2:5–10	We Are God's Handiwork	Pray for perseverance to continue doing good works
Mar. 7	Ephesians 2:11–17	Jesus Unites All People	Pray that God will break down walls of hostility
Mar. 8	Ephesians 2:18–22	We Are God's Temple	Pray for a chance to share Jesus today
Mar. 9	Ephesians 3:1–8	God's Plan for the Gentiles	Pray for those who are lost or feel far from God
Mar. 10	Ephesians 3:9–13	God's Wisdom Revealed in Christ	Pray for a greater measure of wisdom
Mar. 11	Ephesians 3:14–21	Paul's Prayer	Pray for a deeper understanding of God's love for you
Mar. 12	Ephesians 4:1–5	Unity in the Church	Pray for unity among God's people
Mar. 13	Ephesians 4:6–10	Gifts in the Church	Pray for wisdom to use your gifts to serve others today
Mar. 14	Ephesians 4:11–16	Called to Be Like Jesus	Pray for God's leaders to guide His people faithfully
Mar. 15	Ephesians 4:17–21	God Enlightens Our Hearts	Pray for the Gospel to reach those who haven't heard it
Mar. 16	Ephesians 4:22–26	Put Off the Old Self	Pray for grace to overcome familiar sin patterns

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Mar. 17	Ephesians 4:27–32	Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit	Pray for kindness and compassion toward others
Mar. 18	Ephesians 5:1–6	You Are a Child of the Light	Pray for someone who needs encouragement today
Mar. 19	Ephesians 5:25–29	Instructions for Husbands	Pray for the husbands you know to reflect God's love
Mar. 20	Ephesians 5:30–33	We Are the Body of Christ	Pray for revival and renewal within the church
Mar. 21	Ephesians 6:1–9	Instructions for Households	Pray for strength and wisdom for the mothers you know
Mar. 22	Ephesians 6:10–17	The Armor of God	Pray for spiritual readiness to face life's battles
Mar. 23	Ephesians 6:18–20	Pray at All Times	Pray for a deeper and more fulfilling prayer life
Mar. 24	Ephesians 6:21–24	Paul's Final Greetings	Pray for healing for someone you know
Mar. 25	Philippians 1:1–7	Paul's Greeting	Pray for God to continue transforming your life
Mar. 26	Philippians 1:8–11	Paul's Prayer	Pray for growth in your knowledge and love of Jesus
Mar. 27	Philippians 1:12–19	The Advance of the Gospel	Pray for an unbeliever you know to come to faith
Mar. 28	Philippians 1:20–26	Paul's Desire to Be with Jesus	Pray for a longing to be with Jesus and hope in eternity
Mar. 29	Philippians 1:27–30	A Life Worthy of the Gospel	Pray to be a consistent and positive witness to others
Mar. 30	Philippians 2:1–6	Imitating Christ's Humility	Pray for a humble heart that reflects Jesus' example
Mar. 31	Philippians 2:7–11	Christ Is Exalted Above All	Pray that Christ would be glorified in all areas of your life
Apr. 1	Philippians 2:12–18	Fulfilling God's Purpose	Pray to work diligently, trusting in God's power
Apr. 2	Philippians 2:19–24	Paul Sends Timothy	Pray for the courage to follow wherever God leads
Apr. 3	Philippians 2:25–30	Paul Sends Epaphroditus	Pray for healing and strength for those who are sick
Apr. 4	Philippians 3:1–6	Rejoice in the Lord	Pray for those persecuted for their faith in Christ
Apr. 5	Philippians 3:7–10	The Power of Christ	Pray for Christ to be evident in your actions and words
Apr. 6	Philippians 3:11–14	Pressing Toward the Goal	Pray for perseverance in following God's call
Apr. 7	Philippians 3:15–21	Following Paul's Example	Pray for a heavenly perspective in all things
Apr. 8	Philippians 4:1–3	Stand Firm in the Lord	Pray for reconciliation and peace in conflicts
Apr. 9	Philippians 4:4–9	Final Instructions	Pray for an increase in joy and contentment in your life
Apr. 10	Philippians 4:10–16	Paul Thanks Them for Their Gifts	Pray for opportunities to practice generosity
Apr. 11	Philippians 4:17–23	Final Greetings	Pray for God to supply all your needs
Apr. 12	Colossians 1:1–7	Paul's Greeting	Pray for the Gospel to bear fruit in your daily life
Apr. 13	Colossians 1:8–14	Thanksgiving and Prayer	Pray to be filled with the knowledge of God's will
Apr. 14	Colossians 1:15–18	Jesus Is the Image of God	Pray to reflect Jesus in your actions and relationships
Apr. 15	Colossians 1:19–23	Jesus Reconciled Us to God	Pray for the grace to forgive others as God has forgiven you
Apr. 16	Colossians 1:24–29	Paul's Labor for the Church	Pray for unity and collaboration among God's people
Apr. 17	Colossians 2:1–5	The Goal of Paul's Labor	Pray for someone who needs encouragement
Apr. 18	Colossians 2:6–10	Spiritual Fullness in Christ	Pray to be strengthened in faith and grounded in God's truth
Apr. 19	Colossians 2:11–15	Christ Paid the Debt for Our Sins	Pray for the courage to leave past sins and walk in freedom
Apr. 20	Colossians 2:16–23	Spiritual Freedom in Christ	Pray for those yet to experience the freedom in Christ
Apr. 21	Colossians 3:1–4	Set Your Minds on Things Above	Pray for strength to resist temptation and focus on eternity
Apr. 22	Colossians 3:5–10	Take Off the Old Self	Pray for a clean heart and a renewed spirit
Apr. 23	Colossians 3:11–17	Put On the New Self	Pray for your kindness, compassion, and humility to grow
Apr. 24	Colossians 3:18–25	Instructions for Households	Pray for fathers to lead with love and integrity
Apr. 25	Colossians 4:1–6	Paul's Call to Pray	Pray for more time and focus to deepen your prayer life
Apr. 26	Colossians 4:7–18	Paul's Final Greetings	Pray for the lonely and forgotten, that they may find comfort
Apr. 27	Philemon 1–25	Paul Appeals for a Friend	Pray for the ability to show love and mercy, as God has