

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



JUNE 2025

Dear Mentor,

Life is filled with seasons. Before coming to Crossroads, I was mentored by many people, forming a network of relationships within churches, ministries, volunteer groups, and criminal justice entities. As I transitioned into my new role, I was pulled in new directions, with responsibilities that connected me to a broader network of relationships across the country. Over time, some of my previous relationships faded. I found myself grieving what once was, even as I felt excitement about new opportunities. I came to realize that one season in my life had transitioned to another.

Inevitably, my time at Crossroads will transition as well. Solomon reminds us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens . . ." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). My life has been full of changing seasons. Tears flowed when my children left home, but time brought joy and the laughter of grandchildren (Ecclesiastes 3:4). My incarceration broke me down, but time has brought healing and new life (Ecclesiastes 3:7a). Each season has brought new perspectives and opportunities to learn.

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning" (Daniel 2:20-21).

When life is hard and painful, it's difficult to see beyond the circumstances we are enduring. We may feel confused by life-altering events, or we may look back and see a timeline filled with bumps and bruises. Yet these difficult seasons may lead to a new season of restoration. We find comfort in knowing that while we may not fully grasp what God has done from beginning to end, we can hold onto the truth that He will make everything beautiful in its time (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Our students have shared many stories. We've heard about cellmates who are destructive to their well-being and their desperate cries for help. We've seen the anxiety in their words as they anticipate release from incarceration and the uncertainty of what lies ahead. We've also heard stories of drug abuse and violence leading to death—yet sobriety and introspection have brought new life in Christ. To me, this is true excitement! Each story reflects a season they are transitioning from, navigating through, or entering into.

I want to encourage you to reflect on the seasons in your life—whether difficult or joyful—and how they have shaped your perspective. Where have you seen God working in your life? Is there a story of illness and uncertainty for yourself or a loved one (Psalm 23:4)? Have you faced a time where patience was strained, and you learned to wait on God's timing (Psalm 27:14)? Or perhaps life is smooth and uneventful right now, and you are grateful for this time of peace and rest.

"But I trust in you, LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me" (Psalm 31:14-15).

Looking back, I can see how God was preparing me for a new season of ministry. I am still contemplating how to convince all of you to move to my neighborhood when this season at Crossroads transitions!

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

June Mentor Q&A: Curriculum Updates and Prayer Time

Join us as we discuss and answer questions about the new curriculum launching for students next month! We will also take time as a group to pray for the success of this launch.

Please use the QR code below to register and receive a reminder email closer to the gathering. To help us prepare and provide the best answers, email your questions to us in advance at **GatheringsQA@cpministries.org**.



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

We look forward to hearing from you!

Volunteer at the Crossroads Office

If you are in the greater Grand Rapids area and are interested in volunteering at our home office, we would love to connect with you! Each week, volunteers assist with tasks such as opening mail, reviewing lessons, entering enrollment forms, packaging student lessons, and more. If you or someone you know may be interested, please email us at **missionsupport@cpministries.org**.

Curriculum Updates

We are excited to announce that our new curriculum will launch for students in July! Why the changes? Over the past six years, we've worked hard to refine our curriculum to better meet the needs of our students and the mentors who support them. The key reasons for these updates include:

- Allowing students to start one-on-one mentoring earlier.
- Giving students reflective questions that help mentors better understand their journey and struggles.
- Adding important topics like reentry, biblical thinking and wisdom, serving God in prison, and making the most of the mentor experience.
- Updating outdated courses to better fit the needs of students in jail or prison and to match their reading levels.

To view the updated curriculum, visit: **<https://cpministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Crossroads-Mentorship-Program-and-Curriculum-Overview-CMPCO.pdf>**

To view frequently asked questions, visit:

<https://cpministries.org/news/upcoming-changes-to-crossroads-curriculum-what-you-need-to-know>

If you still have questions, we encourage you to join our Mentor Q&A session!

You may also contact our office at **mentor@cpministries.org**.

Scripture Reading and Prayer Guide: The Wisdom of Proverbs

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**.

The book of Proverbs, written primarily by King Solomon, offers wisdom for living a godly life. Many of its sayings may sound familiar. When God told Solomon He would give him anything he wanted, Solomon asked for wisdom. By applying the teachings of Proverbs to our daily lives, we can grow in our relationships and improve in all we do.

Date	Passage	Reading Topic	Prayer Focus
Jun. 1	Proverbs 1:1-19	A Call to Gain Wisdom	Ask God to give you His wisdom
Jun. 2	Proverbs 1:20-33	The World Rejects God's Wisdom	Pray for those who need God

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Jun. 3	Proverbs 2:1-8	God Gives Knowledge	Ask God for understanding in your life
Jun. 4	Proverbs 2:9-22	Wisdom Keeps Us from Sin	Pray for strength to resist temptation
Jun. 5	Proverbs 3:1-20	The Value of Wisdom	Pray to value what God values
Jun. 6	Proverbs 3:21-35	Wisdom in Action	Pray for confidence in the Lord
Jun. 7	Proverbs 4:1-9	A Father's Instruction	Thank God for those who have taught you about Him
Jun. 8	Proverbs 4:10-27	Continue in What You Were Taught	Pray for strength to keep following Jesus
Jun. 9	Proverbs 5:1-14	Warning Against Adultery	Ask God to help you love His laws
Jun. 10	Proverbs 5:15-23	Enjoy God's Gifts	Pray for contentment with what you have
Jun. 11	Proverbs 6:1-19	Warning Against Foolishness	Pray to live a holy life set apart for God
Jun. 12	Proverbs 6:20-35	Further Warning Against Adultery	Pray for purity in your thoughts and actions
Jun. 13	Proverbs 7:1-20	Warning Against Temptation	Pray for those struggling with temptation
Jun. 14	Proverbs 7:21-27	Further Warning Against Temptation	Pray for those struggling with addiction
Jun. 15	Proverbs 8:1-21	The Treasure of Wisdom	Pray to grow in your love for Jesus
Jun. 16	Proverbs 8:22-36	The Power of Wisdom	Give your worries to God
Jun. 17	Proverbs 9:1-12	Invitation to Be Wise	Pray for those who aren't seeking God's wisdom
Jun. 18	Proverbs 9:13-18	Invitation to Be a Fool	Pray that sin would seem foolish to you
Jun. 19	Proverbs 10:1-16	"Love Covers All Wrongs"	Pray to grow in your love for others
Jun. 20	Proverbs 10:17-32	"Slander is Foolish"	Pray for pure and kind speech
Jun. 21	Proverbs 11:1-15	The Righteous Are Rescued	Pray for those being persecuted for their faith
Jun. 22	Proverbs 11:16-31	The Wicked Won't Escape Judgment	Pray for those with hard hearts
Jun. 23	Proverbs 12:1-14	The Lord Corrects the Wise	Pray to be open to God's correction
Jun. 24	Proverbs 12:15-28	The Wise Person Seeks Advice	Pray for wise people in your life
Jun. 25	Proverbs 13:1-13	The Wise Person Is Humble	Pray for humility
Jun. 26	Proverbs 13:14-25	Walk with the Wise	Pray for leaders in the church
Jun. 27	Proverbs 14:1-17	Fear the Lord	Pray to have a right view of God
Jun. 28	Proverbs 14:18-35	The Wise Person Is Kind	Pray for chances to bless others
Jun. 29	Proverbs 15:1-16	"A Gentle Answer Turns Away Wrath"	Pray to be more gentle
Jun. 30	Proverbs 15:17-33	The Wise Person Is Loving	Pray for those who feel unloved
Jul. 1	Proverbs 16:1-16	The Wise Person Commits to God	Pray to be open to God's guidance
Jul. 2	Proverbs 16:17-33	Pride Leads to Destruction	Pray for those who feel lost or far from God
Jul. 3	Proverbs 17:1-14	The Wise Person Is Honest	Pray to live with integrity
Jul. 4	Proverbs 17:15-28	"A Cheerful Heart Is Good Medicine"	Pray for joy in your life
Jul. 5	Proverbs 18:1-12	The Wise Person Seeks Shelter in God	Pray to trust God more
Jul. 6	Proverbs 18:13-23	The Wise Person Speaks Carefully	Pray to honor God with your words
Jul. 7	Proverbs 19:1-15	The Wise Person Is Patient	Pray for more patience
Jul. 8	Proverbs 19:16-29	The Wise Person Is Generous	Pray for opportunities to be generous
Jul. 9	Proverbs 20:1-15	The Wise Person Works Hard	Pray to work for God's glory
Jul. 10	Proverbs 20:16-30	Wait for the Lord	Pray for those suffering from war or conflict
Jul. 11	Proverbs 21:1-16	The Wise Person Hears the Poor	Pray for those suffering from hunger
Jul. 12	Proverbs 21:17-31	Nothing Can Defeat God	Pray for the Gospel to reach unreached people
Jul. 13	Proverbs 22:1-16	The Wise Person Seeks Justice	Pray for those suffering from injustice
Jul. 14	Proverbs 22:17-29	Listen to Wisdom	Pray for a soft heart that listens to God
Jul. 15	Proverbs 23:1-18	Be Content with What You Have	Pray for contentment
Jul. 16	Proverbs 23:19-35	The Wise Person Has Self-Control	Pray for the fruits of the Spirit
Jul. 17	Proverbs 24:1-16	"A Wise Man Has Great Power"	Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit
Jul. 18	Proverbs 24:17-34	"Don't Fret About Evil Men"	Pray to know God's love more
Jul. 19	Proverbs 25:1-14	Humility Is the Way of the Wise	Pray to have the humility of Jesus
Jul. 20	Proverbs 25:15-28	Be Kind to Your Enemies	Pray that your enemies would know God's love
Jul. 21	Proverbs 26:1-14	The Wise Are Slow to Argue	Pray for patience and love in your relationships
Jul. 22	Proverbs 26:15-28	Gossip Feeds Conflict	Pray to avoid gossip
Jul. 23	Proverbs 27:1-14	Don't Boast About Tomorrow	Pray to rely on God in your plans
Jul. 24	Proverbs 27:15-27	The Wise Person Makes Wise Plans	Pray for wisdom in planning
Jul. 25	Proverbs 28:1-14	"The Righteous Are Bold"	Pray for boldness to speak the truth
Jul. 26	Proverbs 28:15-28	"Trusting Yourself Is Foolish"	Pray to trust God's wisdom more
Jul. 27	Proverbs 29:1-14	The Wise Care About Justice	Pray for those facing injustice
Jul. 28	Proverbs 29:15-27	"Pride Leads to a Fall"	Pray for humble leaders
Jul. 29	Proverbs 30:1-14	A Wise Person Loves God's Word	Pray to love reading the Bible
Jul. 30	Proverbs 30:15-33	"Anger Causes Conflict"	Pray for peace in your life
Jul. 31	Proverbs 31:1-9	The Wise Speak Up for Others	Pray for the defenseless
Aug. 1	Proverbs 31:10-31	A Wise Woman	Pray for wisdom for mothers