

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



OCTOBER 2025

Dear Mentor,

Along the lakeshore in Michigan, apple-picking season is winding down. Over the years, our family has ventured into the u-pick orchards to fill bags with ripe apples. It's a joy to see and hear families with their children building memories among the trees.

On crisp autumn days, the aroma of the orchard is wonderful. A sweet, spicy scent rises from the ground along the tree rows. This sharp smell comes from apples that have fallen and begun to ferment. Yeast occurs naturally on apple skins, and as the fruit breaks down into the soil, it creates an environment where yeast can thrive and multiply. Though tiny, it can have a significant impact.

A sprinkle of yeast mixed into bread dough touches every part of the loaf as it rises. It's an essential ingredient in the comforting smell of bread baking in the oven. Jesus used the metaphor of yeast in a positive way in this parable:

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough" (Matthew 13:33).

Jesus also used yeast as a warning. In Matthew 16, He cautioned His disciples about the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Their errors remind me of the challenges our students face. In prison, misinformation about God, distorted theology, and twisted interpretations of Scripture are common. Some of these voices can sound convincing, but if you listen carefully, you may find they are not grounded in truth.

This spiritual challenge isn't unique to incarceration—it is universal (2 Peter 2:1–4). But within a prison setting, it's especially difficult to distance oneself from misleading voices. Cellmate assignments, crowded conditions, and movement restrictions can all make this even harder.

Encourage your student to stay alert, as false or misleading teaching can be found anywhere (Matthew 7:15). Cheer them on in their desire to grow in biblical truth (2 Peter 3:18). Urge them to compare what they hear with what Scripture actually says (1 John 4:1). If you're mentoring a student one-on-one in the Growth Program (Tier 2) or the Advanced Program (Tier 3), invite them to share what they're hearing—and make room for their questions. If you're corresponding with a student in the one-to-many mentorship portion of our program (Tier 1), remind them they can bring their questions to their next mentor. Encourage them to pray for discernment and for truth to be revealed as they continue growing in understanding (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free'" (John 8:31–32).

Just as yeast and soil pathogens break down fallen apples until they collapse with a "squish" underfoot, false teaching can weigh us down. But when we are grounded in truth, we won't collapse—we will be set free.

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

October Mentor Gathering

This month, Bernice Roshak, Director of Operations, will join us to share about the ins and outs of various Crossroads processes, interesting facts, and how working at Crossroads has personally impacted her over the years.

In her 25 years of service in multiple roles, Bernice has navigated many changes and challenges and has been a faithful witness to God's work through the ministry. One of her favorite parts of the job is reading student testimonies about how studying God's Word with Crossroads has transformed their lives.

If you have specific questions about how Crossroads operates, please send them in advance to **GatheringsQA@cpministries.org**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Date: Tuesday, October 21, at 3:00 p.m. (ET)

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

We look forward to seeing you there!



REGISTER

One-to-Many (Tier 1) Mentor Reminders

If you are a One-to-Many (Tier 1) mentor, please remember to sign your letters with:

"Your mentor for this lesson," followed by your first name.

This reminds students that they will have a different mentor for each lesson and should not reply directly to your letter.

Example:

"Your mentor for this lesson, Jen"

When writing letters to students in the one-to-many mentors part of our program, keep in mind that your student won't be able to respond to any questions you ask. You might want to gently remind them of this.

Example:

"How were you able to apply this lesson to your life? I'm sure your next mentor would love to hear!"

Letter Addresses

Due to varying facility restrictions, some student lessons must be returned to Crossroads or a mail processing center in a different state from where the student is located. As part of our process, we verify each student's address to ensure it is the most accurate and up-to-date.

When you receive an envelope for returning a student's lesson, you can trust that it has already been verified and is the correct address for mailing it back.