

Qualities of Most Effective Mentees

New missionaries face many challenges as they begin ministry. Not only do they need to learn a new language, adjust to a new culture, develop relationships, and gain new ministry skills, they also must do this without the benefit of friends and family back home.

Mentoring is a tool that can help new missionaries make the many adjustments of ministering in another culture. By spending time with a more experienced missionary, recently arrived missionaries can benefit from the experience and wisdom of others. Much of the benefit new missionaries get from mentoring depends on their posture and attitude toward the mentoring relationship. Here are some suggestions to help you maximize the benefits you can get from your mentor:

- Be **teachable**. You are there to learn. The point of a mentoring relationship is to nurture growth. Please do not go into the relationship thinking you have all of the answers.
- **Build trust** with your mentor. Make sure that you follow through on the assignments that your mentor gives you. Be real and honest about your strengths and weaknesses as well as your successes and failures.
- **Understand** your role in the relationship and what your mentor expects of you. Feel free to share your expectations of your mentor. **Ask** clarifying questions if needed.
- Come up with learning goals **together** and then take ownership. The mentor's role is not to force you to complete the goals but to walk alongside and help you achieve the goals.
- Be **proactive**. Your mentor is there to help you in the learning process; however, he/she is not going to give you all of the answers.

- Be **available**. Show up on time. Your mentor is a busy person and is taking time to invest in you.
- Remember to **give grace**. Your mentor is not perfect. While he may be older or more experienced than you, he will make mistakes and may disappoint you at times.
- Be **honest**. If the relationship is not going the way you hoped or planned, do not be afraid to address it during your next meeting.
- Be **open** with your struggles. Your mentor would like nothing more than to be a listening ear and help walk through life struggles with you.
- **Enjoy** the relationship!