

Faith Trek Training Centers: Now - Then Mentor Center

This activity is designed to nurture a knowledge and understanding of God's provisions for God's people as they journey in faith together. They will become acquainted with people from Bible times who were chosen to be unlikely leaders. They will consider the role God called them to play in God's overall salvation story and appreciate the mentoring role they still play for us today. Participants may also post the names of people they would consider to be mentors in your congregation and community.

The Faith Trek Travel Packs introduced and distributed in the First Steps gathering activity will be used to highlight the key learning for each activity and integrate the overall theme and content for future reference. The Faith Trek theme design is provided for you to make a banner, poster or PowerPoint slide to display in your gathering area. A Faith trek sign design is also available for you to identify the title and location of each activity.

The Leaders Notes for this activity, along with the necessary preparations, equipment and supplies are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating some of the details and tasks involved.

Scan through the activity outline and adapt it to honor your own schedule and intent. You might also consider using this activity to enrich other intergenerational or age specific events throughout the year.

Approximate time: 5-7 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

- [Portraits of Now -Then Mentors A-E](#) (PDF file)
- [Wallet-size Portrait Profile](#) (PDF file)
- [Now -Then Mentor sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Faith Trek Travel Pack and Travel Tips](#) (PDF file)
- [Travel Tip #7 reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Faith Trek sign design](#) (PDF file)
- Newsprint or poster board
- Markers
- Bible

Leader's Notes:

Scan through the activity outline and adapt your plans to honor the time you have scheduled for your overall event.

Download the Portraits of Now-Then Mentors, the Now-Then Mentor reference sheet and the Travel Tip #7 reference sheet. You may wish to reproduce the portraits on card stock to ensure a sturdier presentation. Then, use the dotted-line on the portrait of Moses as a cutting guide. Associate each portrait with the appropriate story on the Now-Then Mentor reference sheet. Lay out all these pieces out for ready reference.

Print the word "mentor" in large print on poster board or newsprint. Be ready to define it for your participants. Webster's Dictionary defines a mentor to be an advisor, a teacher or a coach.

Make a sample Wallet-size Portrait Portfolio. Fold the Portrait Portfolio in half, horizontally. Then, fold the halves, accordion style, in thirds. Place the Moses frame on top and locate the frame titled, "ME." Consider the many roles or responsibilities God has called you to undertake and place one in the blank provided.

Display the Travel Tip #7 reference sheet and Travel tip #7 in the Faith Trek Travel pack. If you haven't already imprinted and assembled the packs, the pattern and guidelines are outlined in the First Steps gathering activity along with the entire collection of Travel Tips sheets. Make sure you have a few extra packs available for participants who haven't received one.

You may wish to use the Faith Trek sign design to identify the title and location of this activity in the space provided. You might also download the Faith Trek theme design to enlarge and display in your gathering area. Many professional printers have the ability to enlarge B&W designs to 3'x4'. You might also consider an electronic presentation of the designs. This, however, is dependent upon the availability of Microsoft PowerPoint program, a projector and a large wall or screen.

Activity:

Introduce the word "mentor" as you display the visual aid. Ask participants to help you define it (Teacher, coach, advisor). Explain that some mentors teach us in classroom, others work with us side-by-side and some left a legacy long ago that still shapes our lives.

Ask your participants to name some people they know who lived before their time (past presidents, family members). Inquire what they know about them and how they heard about them (Stories that have been shared by family members who are still living, history books). Use this discussion as a premise for considering Bible characters who still influence our lives today. Once again, inquire what they know about the characters and how they may have heard about them.

Display the Portraits of Now-Then Mentors as you share stories of their significant calls to leadership and service. You might consider asking some proficient readers in your group to assist you. Comment on the extraordinary tasks God gave to ordinary people.

Distribute the Wallet-size Portrait Profiles and demonstrate how to fold them, using the guidelines outlined above. Use it to highlight the following invaluable lessons the following characters still teach us. Then, ask them to identify some of the roles and responsibilities God has given them to fulfill. Encourage them to write at least one of them in the space provided on the frame titled "ME."

Moses: Moses saw God's extraordinary presence in an ordinary day and listened to God's plan for him. (Exodus 3:1-4:17)

Josiah: He was a leader who stood strong in the midst of challenge and adversity. (2 Kings 23:2-3)

Mary Mary's obeyed God's plan for her because her faith was stronger than any of her fears. (Luke 2:1-38, 46-56)

Paul God challenged Paul's faith to be so strong that it turned his life around. (Acts 9:1-18, 13:13)

Samuel: Samuel trusted God's lead even though he was very young and he shared God's word and ways with many people. (1 Samuel 3)

You might also invite your participants to print the names or draw the faces of people in their families, congregation and community on the "mentor" newsprint or poster board who they would consider to be current mentors.

Bring closure to this activity by displaying the Travel Tip #7 reference sheet and referring to Travel Tip #7 in the Travel Pack as the key learning for this activity.

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even in my old age and gray hairs, O God I will proclaim your might to all generations. Psalm 71:17-18

Explain that God has called and equipped people of ages throughout history to fulfill God's plans for mission and ministry in the world. God called people in Bible times and God calls us, still today. And, the life stories of those who have gone before us become encouraging and inspiring models of/for faithful leadership and service.