

Preparation for G232 — Mentors, Mentoring and Me

What do you think of when you use the word “mentor”? Does it conjure up an old man with a beard patiently listening to our beginning attempts to learn about life, at the end of which description and questions, we will hear words of wisdom?

In Greek mythology, Mentor was a trusted advisor of Odysseus in Homer’s epic poem *The Odyssey*. Mentor was entrusted with the care of the kingdom, including overseeing and teaching his son, Telemachus, as perhaps his father would have, had he been there.

Recent definitions of “mentor” (from <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/mentor>) include:

1. A wise and trusted counselor or teacher.
2. An influential senior sponsor or supporter.
3. To serve as a trusted counselor or teacher, especially in occupational settings.
4. To serve as a trusted counselor or teacher to (another person).

Questions:

1. What comes to mind as you ponder the word “mentor”?
2. Who has been a mentor for you in your life? Why do you call that person a mentor? Did or do they know they were a mentor to you?
3. What did you need from your mentor? How was your need met—or not met?
4. How would life have been different without your mentor(s)?
5. How have you viewed the experience of being or having a mentor at different times in your life?
6. Can mentors be assigned or do they just happen? Have you ever sought a mentor?
7. Where have you been a mentor? At work? At church? In your personal or family life? What is required of us if we are to mentor another person?