



Connecting Coaches and Campus Missionaries

Finding coaches

This can be discouraging at times. Remember, having the right coaches is more important than having enough coaches. When you settle for less, you place your youth at risk of getting hurt and being disappointed. Also, the student can perceive a connection between the loss of a coach and personal failure as a campus missionary.

Connecting personalities

Just as each individual has his/her own personality, each match does as well. It is important that personalities, learning/teaching styles, and other related factors are supportive and not conflicting. The flow of the relationship will determine the youth's success and desire to continue. Though this is not critical, it is significant.

Facilitating the relationship

Facilitating can range from simple contacts, such as listening to and fielding questions, to as intricate a process as focusing on goals and maintaining contact to ensure progress is being made. In short, facilitating is ensuring that needed resources and support are available and obstacles are overcome. Support from a coach can be critical to encouraging a student to continue during low moments and resist the temptation to quit.

Coaching the coaches

When looking for coaches, consider character, willingness, and availability. Knowing how to mentor is a skill that can be taught. This is an opportunity to invest into those who are investing in your youth.

1. Teach coaches the five commitments of a campus missionary.
2. Assist coaches with obstacles as they occur.
3. Teach coaches introspection—knowing themselves, their weaknesses, struggles, frustrations, needs, etc. This is significant in helping them know why they may have emotional responses to various events that occur during the mentoring process.
4. Some coaches may struggle with their inadequacies. It is important to let coaches know that perfection is not a requirement. Only their willingness is required.