

The Narrow Gate



Issue 002

Pathlight Ministries Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2025

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it."

Matthew 7:13

The Importance of Christian Mentorship

The statistics are staggering. According to Barna.com, although 54% of Gen Z (those born between 1999 and 2015) strongly agree that "in person relationships are more valuable than digital ones," a mere 16% attend church regularly. Even more staggering, according to the American World Inventory 2025, only 4% of adults hold a Biblical world view. Among those ages 18-29, only 1% hold a Biblical world view. Scary! But the news isn't all bad...

According to a report by Barna CEO, David Kinnaman, "Why Mentorship is a Key to the US Church's Future," teens in Gen Z (nicknamed the "Open Generation") are "more open, inclusive, and they are seeking truth, authenticity, & change." On page 2 of this newsletter, you have an opportunity to read a first-hand account of success due to mentorship!

This is where we come in. Pathlight Ministries wants to help facilitate these mentorships. We are developing a mentorship program with curriculum to help guide future mentors. However, we can't do this without YOU! Teens and young adults need YOU to step up and become a Christian Mentor. If you are interested, please contact us via email.

At the same time, teens and young adults need to seek out trusted people to be a Christian mentor to them. If you are a teen or young adult interested in finding a mentor, please connect with us as well. We can't wait to hear from you!

Email us at: connect@pathlightministries.org

FEATURED RESOURCE



Living in Truth Ministries

Pathlight Ministries is excited to partner with Living in Truth Ministries, founded in 2008 by RaeLynn DeAngelis, a dear friend and mentor of Pathlight Ministries founder, Teri Rolfes.

Living in Truth Ministries offers incredible support and resources to help people "Break the chains of food and body-image" and empower them to see themselves "through God's Eyes." Today, Living in Truth Ministries is "a non-profit organization, reaching women all over the world, helping them embrace their unique identity and see themselves through God's eyes. Our programs, Bible plans, resources, and materials help women learn, grow, and live in God's truth in every area of life." Visit livingintruthministries.com for more information.

Quarterly Time-Saving Tip/Life Hack

Take Time for Yourself! Ask for Help if Needed!

Nope...you didn't read that wrong. No one can give 100 percent all the time, especially when we are running on empty. Even Jesus took time away to recharge! God designed us to work hard and rest one day a week on the Sabbath.

If God commands it, shouldn't we follow through? The Bible offers a lot of verses to support this whole idea of taking some time away, and also asking for help if we feel we can't do something alone.

Here are 4 Biblical examples of why we need to obey God's command to rest:

1). God Commands Us to Take Care of Ourselves

- Hebrews 4:9-11
- Acts 20:28
- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- Romans 12:1-2
- Ephesians 2:10

2). Self-Care Glorifies God

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- 1 Corinthians 9:27
- 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Philippians 1:20
- 1 Timothy 4:8

3). God's Word Offers Rest

- Psalm 23
- Isaiah 58:11
- Matthew 11:28
- Mark 6:31
- Philippians 4:6
- Philippians 4:19

4). We Bless Others When We Accept Their Help!

- Philippians 2:4
- Galatians 6:2
- Galatians 6:10
- 1 Timothy 5:8
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

So there you have it...straight from the Good Lord Himself!! No more excuses! Save time by taking some valuable time to rest. No more guilt. Give 100 percent 6 out of 7 days. THEN, go ahead and take a day off.

Wouldn't it be amazing if we actually returned to taking Sundays off? Businesses...closed! Restaurants...closed! Churches...OPEN! Would Jesus approve? We don't just "think" so, we "know" He would!

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Every Student Needs a "Scott"

By Tyler Johnson

I'll never forget watching a video lesson at a youth group one night. A student in the video shared about how hard her life was because of her dad. When her story ended, many of my peers responded with empathy. I didn't. My first thought was, *That's nothing compared to Ed.*

Ed was my alcoholic father. When I left for college, he called to tell me he didn't want to be my dad anymore—he just wanted to be like a "good buddy." He did, however, offer to bail me out of jail someday. "Your brother got one," he said. "So you get one too." I'll never forget that strange phone call. But the truth is, I had already known long before then: I didn't need an "Ed" in my life—because I had a "Scott."

Scott was my youth pastor. And ironically, when he first came to our church, I didn't like him. I thought he didn't like me either—that he preferred spending time with the older kids. But after that same youth group video, Scott pulled me aside when everyone had left and quietly asked if I was okay. He knew what was happening in my home. And I was shocked—and deeply moved—that he knew. That he cared. From that point forward, Scott became my mentor.

I went to conferences, I went to camp, and when I aged out of camp, I came back to serve. As the years passed, our bond deepened—especially when tragedy hit home.

A massive fight broke out at my house. It was emotional. It turned physical. That night, Ed finally left. My parents decided to separate and eventually divorce. The cops came. Our minister came. And Scott came too.

While the adults inside discussed what to do next—probably whether to press charges—I sat in Scott's car, just the two of us. We talked. He listened. That was the moment Scott became more than just a youth pastor to me. He became a Paul—a spiritual father.

Scott was there when God called me into ministry. He didn't cause the calling, but he helped me walk through it. He guided me as I looked for a college, reminded me of my calling when I tried to run from it, and encouraged me every step of the way. Without Scott, I'm certain my life would have taken a different path.

Statistics show two things. First, more than 85% of Christian students who graduate high school lose their faith or become spiritually inactive. But of the small percentage who remain faithful, over 90% had a Christian mentor outside their family. To me, every student needs a Scott.

Even when Jesus left the disciples after His resurrection, they went back to fishing. He had to meet them again—reminding them of their mission and calling. Discipleship doesn't end at graduation.

Just recently, I got to visit Scott. He's now the lead minister at a church in Idaho. I hadn't seen him in about eight years, but we've talked often. And even now—I still need Scott. He still guides me when life gets rough. He still teaches me what it means to be a husband and a father—because Ed didn't know how to do those things.

Every student needs a Scott...And every church needs to raise up people ready to be one.

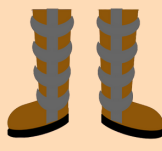
**CHANGE A LIFE!
BE A MENTOR!**



Tyler Johnson, is the Next Gen Minister at Christ's Hope Ministries & Church in Ft. Wayne, IN. Formerly the Next-Gen Pastor at Legacy Christian Church in Harrison, OH, Tyler lives in Ft. Wayne with his wife, Allie, and their son, August.

**CHANGE YOUR LIFE!
HAVE A MENTOR!**

Equip Yourself Every Day for the Battlefield...



Ephesians 6:10-18...God's Full Armor. Never Leave Home Without It!

Stay
Tuned!
Bible
Study
Podcast!
Coming
Soon!

