



FLOURISH

Guidelines on Navigating Difficult Conversations

We often receive requests from our mentors on how to approach more difficult/sensitive conversations with their mentees regarding decisions they have made such as, to live with their boyfriends or fiancé, etc. Below are some guidelines on how we'd encourage you to approach this particular situation, and other conversations similar to this.

1. We believe that it is ultimately God's responsibility and the work of the Holy Spirit to bring about change in the mentee's heart.
2. Our approach to any conversation around this or similar topics must come from a place of love, grace, and acceptance.
3. We don't want to withhold truth or avoid difficult conversations but we also want to remember that we're not God for them .
4. Our posture and goal should be to point our girls to finding answers in Scripture and allowing the living breathing Word of God to have it's way in their hearts.
5. We can plainly communicate what we think and believe is best, but not with the intent to be their savior -- only to plant seeds and allow them to think and pray on whatever truth we offer.
6. We would recommend asking questions of your mentee to steer the conversation and allow them to wrestle with how they came to make a particular decision.
 - a. Tell me more about that decision to live with (move in with) your boyfriend?*
 - b. How did you come to the conclusion that this arrangement is best for both of you?*
 - c. What do you want for your life?*
 - d. Have you taken time to consider God's heart for you and what His Word would advise? What is His standard regarding this decision?*
7. Consider encouraging a mentee along these lines if the opportunity presents itself:
 - a. If you're willing, I'd love for you to search God's Word and see what He says and let's keep talking. Ultimately, you and I will give an account to God for our choices, and based on what you've shared, I want to encourage you to make sure your life aligns with His Word and will result in His best for you.*
8. Avoid telling them what to do. Our hope is that these ladies will begin to learn to search God's Word for direction for their lives, follow the conviction and lead of the Holy Spirit, and learn to rely on Jesus to be the Way, Truth and Life for them.
9. Don't shy away from being forthright and sharing your beliefs, but always make sure it is pointing them to discover truth for themselves and with encouragement to align their lives with the Word.
10. If you have conversations with your mentee/s and they still choose to go their own way and remain in a situation that is obviously unbiblical, we want to remain in their lives and have access to their hearts by continuing to love them, speak truth, and pray for them for as long as we have the privilege to do so.