

# Mentoring: The Next Frontier

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**I**t's been a long time coming. For years you've done your duty teaching, training, and loving your own children. Now you're coming to the close of your work. Perhaps you're about to graduate your youngest child or maybe you've been done with homeschooling for years.

## **Please hear my humble plea. Your job is not finished yet.**

As a 30-year-old mom of five young children, I can tell you that experienced homeschool mothers have been my greatest relational resource. Although I was homeschooled, I still have questions about how to homeschool my own children well. Every generation needs to navigate the same questions of: "Why are we doing this?" "How do I do this?" and "Who took my scissors?" Questions like these only confirm my belief that **a new generation of homeschooling moms needs mentors.**

In the book of Titus, Chapter 2, older women are instructed in proper conduct as mentors. They should be reverent in behavior, shouldn't be an old gossip, and shouldn't be enslaved to wine. They are then told to teach the younger women to love their

husbands, love their children, be sensible, pure, homemakers, kind, subject to their husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

Do you fit this bill? If so, your example, wisdom, and experience is a crucial part of training younger women to faithfully do their work. **You've been promoted to Mentor.**

Some of you are Homeschooling Pioneers. You didn't have an older woman to show you the ropes. You had to make your own rope, hitch it to your wagon, and head West! Maybe you did have older women mentors in your life, but some of them discouraged you and questioned your harebrained idea to homeschool your children. Your own mother may have thought you mad!

If you didn't have older women helping you in your homeschooling journey, imagine with me what it could have looked like to have someone like that: Someone to tell you that this homeschooling thing was going to work. Someone to tell you that the teenage years were not something to dread. Someone to tell you that mistakes will be made, but God's hand is not too short to save. Someone to tell you that the choice you made to obey God's call on your life was going to change the world.

**Pioneer, if this is you, then you have been given a great gift: The Gift of Lack.** Because you have keenly felt firsthand the lack of mentorship in your past work, you are better equipped to see the needs of the younger moms around you and equip them for their present work. You can be the mentor you never had. May the vision that compelled you to blaze the trail of homeschooling now be used as vision to see and bless the upcoming generation.

Some of you started homeschooling after the Pioneers. The trail had been blazed, and you were trying to live in the unpopulated plains, and still felt awkward taking your children to the grocery store during public school hours. The four-inch-thick Rainbow Resource Catalog (which doubled as a booster seat) was loaded with tools to teach your children, but it was all new territory for you. You knew pioneers, or had at least heard of them, so your journey wasn't altogether without mentors. Homeschool support groups and peer friendships equipped