



MENTORING MOMENTS

Life Lessons for the Next Generation

BRIAN D. MOLITOR

Foreword by Kirk Cameron





Mentoring Moments: Life Lessons for the Next Generation

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FOREWORD

I'm excited to introduce my friend Brian D. Molitor and his new book, *Mentoring Moments*. I first met Brian years ago when a friend gave me a copy of his book on parenting, *Boy's Passage, Man's Journey*. I made the mistake of opening that book one evening and I've never forgiven Brian for ruining a perfectly good Thai dinner! Not only could I not stop reading the book but I also cried thorough much of it because Brian's words simultaneously broke and healed my heart. There is nothing more important in my life than faith and family, and I realized that my friend Brian had given me much more than a book; he'd given me a road map to becoming the best possible father. I was thrilled and saw this as a very clear answer to my prayers.

The next day, I made a decision to dig deeper into Brian's parenting concepts of Life-Long Mentoring, Intentional Blessing, and Rites of Passage for my kids. So I tracked down Brian's number and gave him a call. During our phone conversation, he not only answered my questions but also invited me to spend a few days with him at his cabin in Michigan to talk more about the high calling of parenthood. I accepted his offer for two reasons: First, I wanted to learn more about his approach to fatherhood. Second, I realized that many authors write books about "family" these days and I wanted to see if Brian was the real deal. I wanted to see if he actually practiced what he preached.

After a long flight from Los Angeles, I arrived at his house, met Brian, his wife, Kathy, and his children: Chris, Steven, Jeni, and Daniel. We passed the day talking, laughing, and enjoying the beauty of the woods and water around his place. With some people I meet, it takes a while to get comfortable, but once I got to the "Molitor Com-

INTRODUCTION

For Best Results, Read This First

This book brings together mentors—fathers, mothers, and others—with members of the next generation to learn and apply very important life lessons.

The subjects you'll cover in this book will prepare young people to succeed in life as they navigate through the challenges life brings their way.

Tools for Success

All you need to successfully complete this book is a Bible and a pen. You might want to get a copy of the book for each person who will be participating since there are questions to ponder after each lesson.

Timeframe

We've designed fifty-two lessons, one lesson each week over the course of a year. The lessons are short and are intended to stimulate thought, questions, and discussions about issues that young people will likely face in their future. Each lesson can easily be covered in thirty to sixty minutes.

ABSOLUTES? ABSOLUTELY!

The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is.

– Winston Churchill

Here’s a shocker: some things are always true. Gravity, for example. Want proof? Pick up something . . . better make that a *harmless* something like a pen, pencil, or coin. Now hold it at arm’s length away from you and then drop it. What happens? It falls to the floor due to the force of gravity. Repeat the process a few times. What happens? You guessed it. It falls to the floor every single time. On earth, gravity always works. It is always absolutely an absolute.

Think about the words “always” and “never.” These are words used to describe absolutes. Another way to explore this topic is to acknowledge that some things are always *right* and some things are always *wrong*. Want some examples? It is *always* wrong to steal . . . *always*. It is *never* right to murder someone . . . *never*. And on the flip side, it is *always* right to love others . . . *always*.

These seem clear, but how do we know which things in this life are absolutely true? How can anyone understand the difference between *right* and *wrong*? And who gets to set the rules and say what is right and wrong?

When we are very young, our parents set the rules in the house. They might teach us that it is always right to clean your room and that it is never right to talk disrespectfully to your mother. When we get older, we become subject to the laws of our community, state,

is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” (Mark 8:36).

There is another approach to the hereafter that is in sharp contrast to the one above. It is the biblical notion of a beautiful place called heaven that holds benefits we can only imagine.

Since we can't get to the hereafter until we are done being here, how do we know which approach is actually right? Here's a hint: Everywhere you look in the universe, you see God's fingerprints: the sky, the stars, trees, plants, grass, the air we breathe, the human body, animals, fish in the sea, and the birth process. In millions of other places, you can see that the hand of God reached down and brought about the miracle of life.

The Bible tells of God's plans for the universe, the planet earth, and for human beings. The Scriptures offer detailed accounts of not only the here-and-now but also the hereafter. This is one of the most essential issues for any thinking person to settle. Once settled, it allows us to rejoice in times of great success, to look for joy and contentment in whatever is happening, to endure hardships as being temporary, and to live as those who will give an account of what we did with this precious gift called life. When you are tempted to take life for granted, remember there's more to come.

Points to Ponder

- Why is it important for a person to decide if there is life after death?
- If a person believes that life on earth is all there is, how might it change how they think and act?
- Have you seen evidence of God's "fingerprints" in this world? Describe what you have seen, sensed, or realized.
- Share your thoughts about the quote at the beginning of the chapter.
- Talk about how the following Scripture relates to the lesson: John 3:16.

THE PRICE IS WRONG

Trust, but verify.

– Ronald Reagan

Like it or not, negotiation is part of life. The classic display of this truth is found on used car lots across the world. It works something like this:

Salesman with big smile: “Welcome! How can I help you?”

Buyer: “I’m just looking.”

For starters, the salesman is not really there to “help.” His job is to sell cars, at the highest possible price. At the same time, the buyer is not just there to “look.” They want to buy a car at the lowest possible price. Both are playing the serious game called “negotiation.” Here comes the next round:

Salesman: “What’s your price range?”

Buyer: “Well, maybe a couple thousand dollars.”

The salesman is looking for the buyer’s price range. He knows better than to believe the buyer’s first number. Meanwhile, the buyer doesn’t want the salesman to understand his true financial position or he loses some bargaining power. The buyer may well have more

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BRIAN D. MOLITOR is the founder of the Malachi Global Foundation and the CEO of Molitor International. He is an international author, speaker, and thought leader in the areas of parenting as well organizational development. He is married with four children and multiple grandchildren.