**Guiding with Grace**

**Pearl Application (Mentor)**

 *“Tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done.”*   Psalm 78:4

What is Guiding with Grace?

This new First Bossier ministry will pair a younger woman (referred to as a Gem) with a woman mature in her Christian faith (referred to as a Pearl) who has navigated some of life’s trials for the purpose of spiritual growth through Christian nurturing. Each Pearl will invest in the lives of her Gem by listening, and offering prayer, encouragement, guidance, and love.

What is a Pearl and what do they do?

* A Pearl is a woman mature in her Christian faith who has navigated some of life’s trials.
* She is willing to listen, share skills, and provide a positive perspective for life experiences.
* She is eager to remind her Gem of God’s faithfulness and promises.

What is a Gem and what do they do?

* A Gem is a younger woman who welcomes a connection with a mature Christian woman.
* She desires to develop certain skills and/or strengths for her personal, spiritual journey.
* She seeks Christian guidance from a woman who will listen, share experiences, and provide encouragement.

How will I be matched with my partner?

The Guiding with Grace Team will match a Pearl and a Gem using responses to their applications. Our team recognizes the importance and blessings of prayers throughout the matching process, and we have a group of ladies already covering this need in prayers! No two women will ever have identical life stories. Matching you with someone who is just like you is not our goal. Our purpose is to match Pearls and Gems to continually focus on walking and growing with Christ. You two may not share the same cappuccino preferences or favorite colors. However, Pearls want to share the faithfulness of Jesus throughout their journey, in the highs and lows and smiles and tears of Life. With prayers, Pearls want to encourage their Gems with reminders of God’s faithfulness and love.

Do I have to be a member of First Bossier to participate?

* Pearls are members of First Bossier.
* Gems should have faithful attendance at First Bossier.

What is the required commitment?

* You agree to pray for and communicate with each other regularly.
* You will commit to meet together once a month, or more if mutually agreed upon.
* All Pearls and Gems are invited to attend one of the “Introduction to Mentoring” meetings before submitting an application. See dates below.

What are the important mentoring dates and deadlines?

* We would love an opportunity to share more information with you about Guiding with Grace. We are hosting informational meetings for all ladies wanting to know more. Attendance is voluntary.
* Application packets are due Sunday, October 22, 2017. This gives us time to pray over assignments for Pearl—Gem matches.
* Meet Your Match Night on Sunday, November 5, 2017, where your match will be revealed.
* Celebration in May 2018, at the conclusion of your Guiding with Grace Commitment.

What do I do if my “match” is not working out?

* Please do not just walk away from the relationship. Pray and be sure you have reached out numerous times to connect and develop a friendship.
* Contact the Guiding with Grace Coordinator, Susan Rogers, with any questions, concerns, or challenges you may be experiencing before making any decisions to terminate your mentoring relationship.

Meet our Team:

 Mollie Branch Cathy Carroll Janet Crain

 Christi Horton Keri Lee Sam Quick

 Carolyn Rohrer Susan Rogers Kayte Hollowell

Still have questions? Please email Susan Rogers, Guiding with Grace Coordinator, at Rogers340@netetc.com

and provide your contact information and best method time to reach you. If email is inconvenient, please text or call 318-218-1681.

# **Proverbs 27:17 Modern English Version (MEV)**

**17**Iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

**First Bossier Statement of Faith**

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the only basis of our beliefs. This Church accepts “The Baptist Faith and Message” as amended, as an affirmation of basic Christian beliefs, and a general statement of our faith as follows:

**1. The Scriptures** The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

**2. God** There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

**a. God the Father** God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

**b. God the Son** Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

**c. God the Holy Spirit** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

**3. Man** Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

**4. Salvation** Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

**a. Regeneration**, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.

**b. Justification** is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

**c. Sanctification** is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

**d. Glorification** is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

**5. God's Purpose of Grace** Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

**6. The Church** A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

**7. Baptism and the Lord's Supper** Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

\*For more information on the beliefs of First Bossier in accordance with The Baptist Faith and Message, the confession of faith of the Southern Baptist Convention, please visit: http://www.firstbossier.com/new/believe.shtml

**Pearl Application (mentors)**

All Pearls and Gems are invited to attend one of the “Introduction to Mentoring” meetings before submitting an application.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of First Bossier? Yes No Please check the best way to reach you: Email Home Cell Text

If you are a member of a First Bossier Connection Class, please tell us which one\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which ministry activities and/or hobbies are you involved in? ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Profession: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Names of Children and Ages: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please *briefly* describe the following:

*Your life before Christ…*

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*How you came to know Christ…*

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*Some specific ways Christ has change your life since coming to know Him…*

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Please indicate what you desire **to give** from your mentoring relationship by checking all that apply:

Spiritual: Godly/Biblical counsel and wisdom Regular accountability for spending time with God Lead a Bible study

Relational: Talk about general life challenges Give insight w/ personal growth & difficulties Relationship/marital/child counsel

Practical: Homemaking/organizational issues Help with professional/work advice & counsel

Prayerfully considering time constraints, how many times per month do you wish to meet with your Gem?

 once a month twice a month three times a month four times a month

Any other comments that will help us in making a match?

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**Guiding with Grace Commitment for Pearls (mentors)**

\*Please initial beside each

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an active member of First Bossier and faithfully attend worship services.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the Guiding with Grace Ministry beliefs are the same as those of First Bossier, and that while I am a part of this ministry, I will submit to its authority and beliefs.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I am making a commitment to participate in the mentoring program until May, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will communicate with and meet with my Gem at least once a month, or more if mutually agreed upon.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will make my Pearl/Gem relationship a priority, sharing openly and honestly, and intentionally set aside a time for it in my schedule.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will keep all Pearl/Gem sharing confidential, unless we both agree that it is appropriate to share with someone else. We will talk only about ourselves and our personal journeys.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pray for my Gem and ask the Lord to deepen our bond of friendship.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will spend time with my Gem, whether by walking with her through spiritual disciplines; being involved in various ministry events together, or enjoying other activities together.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will make every effort to keep my mentoring relationship ongoing, consistent, and fun. I will always ask God to be a part of it and bless it.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that Pearls are not counselors, and that some issues may merit the need for a licensed counselor and First Bossier counseling services should I need it.

 I have read this Guiding with Grace Application Packet, and I am committed to the above.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date