



MENTORING SMALL GROUP
LINDA M MCCAMERY
INITIATION IN THE SPIRITUAL
FORMATION SF503

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Jennifer Kim, Mentor

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Monday's September 14, 21, 28, & October 5 (4:30 pm - 5:30 pm)

In the Initiation in the Spiritual Formation SF503(ISF) Small Group mentoring section the women in the class were sent to a break out room on live screen, while the women students on campus were sent to another room for privacy. The group met for four, 1-hour section with Mentor Jennifer Kim. Jennifer asked us to write in our journals after meeting together, at least two paragraphs that will be submitted in a 4-page summary paper at the end of the semester. We discussed the effect of the group meeting had on us. We were questioned if there was difficulty in sharing the issues with the group. Finally, we would write in details how God has shown us actions or steps to move forward.

September 14, 2020: In the Small group with our Mentor Jennifer Kim, we discussed the class and two topics from Professor Robert Reimer lecture and his book River Dwellers. During the last hour of the class the women were sent out to the breakout-room, a classroom down the hall was made available for more privacy. We were having some technical difficulties; however, we were able to introduce ourselves to each other. Jennifer gave us two topic sentences to consider. We were to choose one thing from each topic and how it effective our pursuit of spiritual maturity. During this first hour we were told to write about these sections in our journal a summary of our discussion, which will be composed into a four-page paper at the end of the semester. We were encouraged to listen with respect to each other's experiences, without being judgmental. Being that this group were made up of women and we had a female mentor, it made is more comfortable to talk about sensitive issues.

September 21, 2020: Because our first IFS mentoring small group ended because of technical difficulties. Jennifer emailed us with two topics and asked us to pick one on Stewart

Maturity and one on Emotional Maturity. She told us to be ready to speak on it at our second small group meeting. The breakroom setting was a little different than usual, because of the live streaming. However, we were broke-up into two groups. I spoke on about taking reponsibility for my own actions, such as learning to say no when too much is being asked of me. I spoke of a situation where I had taken on more than I could handle, because I didn't want to offend my Pastor, however, I needed to practice deligation so that I didn't become overwhelmed. We want to show love and support, but not to the point it causes us harm. Being a good Stewart also means being humble, disciplined and being a team player, knowing that no one person carries the whole load and that one person cannot stop the whole show. We spoke of pride as being a barrier to growing in these areas. The feedback I got from the group was verying encouraging. Emotional Maturity I spoke of dealt with forgiveness. Through this topic we spoke on several instances in our lives where God showed us that we must forgive to go forward in our spiritual walk with God, families and relationships. Forgiveness, death and overcoming emotional hurt came up several times in this discussion.

September 28, 2020: The third section was of the IFS Mentoring small group was a discussion on Deliverance. Here our faith was tested in another way. We discussed spiritual world and our faith and beliefs concerning Deliverance. I told Jennifer that one thing that pressed me, was when Dr. Reimer asked who needed deliverance that day in class, I did not feel any uncertainty toward the Deliverance functions, including making sure that all areas was clear by using the deliverance test. One of the Ladies asked if she has ever done a deliverance and how she had approached it. We spoke of different techniques and two of the young women were having difficulty with the topic of a Saint having demons of needing deliverance. In our different ministries this was unheard of, and a couple of them disbelieved this all together.

I will just say, I was intrigued with the topic of taking part in ceremonies or blood covenant with a person or organization. I remember playing with some of my friends and entering into 'blood pacts' when we played Cowboys and Indians. We would pierce your fingertip and touch your fingers together and promise to be blood brothers and sisters. We thought we were playing a game. When we read the book *Step to Freedom*, these games became suspect. I didn't even want any doubts in my mind of being open to demonic portals in my life. I renounced practices that used rabbit foots, Ouija-boards, hypnosis (spinning a coin or flicking light), that we played in the community centers or play grounds. I like to keep the airways clear between my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In one of the classes, I heard one of the young man state how he became intrigue with magic, playing a magician as a child. Hearing about sexual abuse, rape and how these could have cause traits, or generational curses. We prayed against fear, ignorance and asked God to allow his word to strengthen all of our lives.

Closing out the IFS Mentoring section, Jenifer encouraged us to be active in searching out a retreat location and also to take the assessment test.

October 05, 2020: In our last class we discussed Emotionally Healthy Spirituality. In this section we discussed how the books and assignments aided us in our spiritual transition toward becoming emotionally healthy. Several aspects discussed dealt with my interaction with the spirit and what my true self was. It is difficult at time to express your innermost secrets to other, because of the fear of how someone treating you differently, because now they see some of your flaws. We look at two questions and broke up into two groups. Because we were live steaming, the people on the live stream were one group and we who were present on the campus made up the second group. Jennifer poised the question and was available for feedback, however, the groups spoke about their own experience or lack of experience dealing with our

emotions and spiritual health. We were all interested in participating in the retreat, however there were many concerns about COVID if the location were closed. The retreats that were available were still a concern to us, because we are mothers, wives, Pastors and Ministers who did not want to put ourselves in danger. Jennifer spoke to us concerning these issues and agreed with some of us who were considering doing our retreats in our home, specifically in a room for the 24-hour retreat. She encourages us to work within the time allotted to get in our assignments and offered her assistance. We spoke of our current situation in ministry. At one point one of the Ladies asked Jennifer about her own experience within the deliverance ministry. Our different belief and positions on deliverance, the Holy Spirit and our current growth this Semester prove to be encouraging to us all. We started with prayer and ended with praying one for another. It was a humbling experience, even when one of the Ladies asked to pray in her native language. Even though we met for a short time, practicing social distancing in obedient and wearing our mask, it was a learning experience to us all. Our different cultures, languages and even family demographics proved to be an eye-opening experience.

NOTE: Out of respect for the sensitivity of subjects discussed I did not disclose the names of the young Ladies who asked or answered questions in this group discussion.

Mentor: Jennifer

Participants: Jessica Ng, Karen Liang., Kyung Hwa Lee, Sharna Forbes and Linda McCamery