Sometimes mentors enter our life for a brief period to help develop our gifts, solve a problem, or overcome a weakness. They serve as a consultant or coach, and help another become effective in a particular area such as godly leadership, conflict management, motherhood, teaching/preaching, writing, working with the opposite gender, finding a job, etc.

Priscilla and Aquila coached Apollos in the area of teaching the complete gospel (Acts 18:24-28). As a result Apollos was equipped to speak more powerfully for Christ.

A coaching conversation might look something like this:

Mentee: I want to be a better teacher, but I don’t know what to change. Can you help me?

Coach: Be glad to. Can you give me a couple of recorded messages to listen to?

Mentee: You can find several at this link: ____________

Coach: (1 week later) I enjoyed listening to your messages. Your research and passion are remarkable. I think I’ve identified several ways you can strengthen your skills as a teacher. Let’s work on one at a time. When you construct your message this week, see if you can identify one big idea to communicate. Here’s how you can find the big idea (coach gives detailed instruction). When you have your rough draft, let me take a look. I’ll see if I can help you sharpen your big idea.

Mentee: (2 weeks later) Wow, several people complemented me on my last two messages! I think I’ve got the big idea down. What’s next?

Coach: I agree. You did a great job on those messages. Now I’d like you to work on your introduction. Your introduction must present a compelling reason for your audience to listen to your message. Let’s look at the elements of a strong introduction (coach gives detailed instruction). Write out your next introduction and we’ll go over it together.

Mentee: (1 month later) One of my friends told me she noticed a change in my messages. I think I’m getting the hang of this.

Coach: Your teaching skills are definitely growing stronger. I think you’re ready to work on illustrations. Early in your preparation process, look for illustrations that connect to your big idea (coach gives detailed instruction). When you have some ideas, I’d like to take a look.

Visit dts.edu/mentor for more information.
(3 days later) You have some good stories here, but they don’t drive home your major point. Take another stab at this and see if you can come up with illustrations that help your audience relate your big idea to their personal experiences.

*Mentee:* (several days later) I’m really struggling with this one. Can you give me some suggestions?

*Coach:* Ok. I think either of these stories would accomplish what you want to communicate (coach gives example).

Coach and mentee continue to work together until all the skills are addressed. Although the coaching situation ends at that time, the mentee may contact the coach later to further sharpen his/her teaching skills, or help with a particular problem.