If you are reading this...

that means you were chosen to be a Guide on the Aion Path.

Thank you for rising to the call.

If you're nervous about being a Guide – you're more prepared than you may think.

If you're worried about what to say – relax, we'll give you everything you need.

And if you don't think you are "cool" enough, remember...they chose you!

Guides' Guide to Guiding on the Aion Path

Thank you for being willing to be a guide to an Apprentice on the Aion Path. The Aion Path is a three-year discipleship journey for teenage boys and girls, led by their fathers, to form their core beliefs around identity, character, and faith, culminating in a rite of passage ceremony. You are a member of a team consisting of a spiritual guide, a financial guide, and a vocational guide who will speak into the life of this Apprentice twice a year for the next three years. You will be following a conversation plan that will be provided to both you and the Apprentice.

Before the Meeting

Please note, it is the **Apprentice's responsibility** to schedule meetings with you. Resist the urge to take the lead on their behalf. That said, there are two key things for you to do beforehand:

1. Choose a Setting

- Teenagers can struggle with direct eye contact, so consider a setting that fosters natural conversation. A walk, a shared meal, a fun treat like boba, or an activity like chess can help ease tension and make the meeting something your Apprentice looks forward to.

2. Pray

- This may be the most important thing you do. Truly. Before your meeting, pray that God will work through you, that you'll play the role he intends – big or small – and that your words and actions will point your Apprentice to Jesus.

During the Meeting

Sample Agenda (approx. 1 hour)

- Welcome and get acquainted or check in (10 minutes)Open with prayer
- Ask the Apprentice the questions in the Conversation Plan (20 minutes)
- The Apprentice asks you the questions in the Conversation Plan (20 minutes)
- Encouraging next steps
- Close with prayer

Asking Questions

> ***The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters,***
> ***but one who has insight draws them out.*** Proverbs 20:5

Teenagers often don't fully understand what they think or feel. That's why your role isn't to provide all the answers, but to ask the kind of questions that help them discover truth for themselves. Each meeting includes a set of questions designed to guide them toward clarity and insight. Your job is to draw out what's already in them, then help them reflect more deeply by asking follow-up questions.

Answering Questions

> ***Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.*** 1 Thessalonians 2:8

When your Apprentice asks you their questions, answer with transparency. If your journey has included doubt, struggle, or failure, say so. Sharing your life with them, both the highs and the lows, and how you looked to Jesus through it all may be the most powerful thing you pass on.

Other Tips

- **Open and close with prayer**
    - This invites God into the conversation and models how you talk to Jesus.
- **Listen with empathy**
    - Use responses like, “That sounds really tough.” And if you don’t fully understand, ask follow-up questions, like “Tell me more,” or “Why do you think that?” Many teens struggle to express emotions clearly, so help them process by listening well.
- **Embrace silence**
    - Don’t rush to fill the dead space or follow up with another question. Give your Apprentice time to formulate their thoughts and respond.
- **Take notes**
    - Jotting down details like their dog’s name or a school challenge or a prayer request shows you care and helps build a deeper connection.
- **Wrap up with encouragement**
    - Finish your conversation by saying, “One thing you said that stood out to me today was [blank].” In return, prompt them to summarize what they got out of the conversation by asking them, “What was one thing I said that stood out to you today?”
    - Leave them with a modest assignment such as “Send me that verse you wanted to memorize,” “Send me your basketball schedule,” or “Be sure to shoot me that picture from your adventure with your dad.”

After the Meeting

- Follow up on any important notes you took and be sure to check in regarding any prayer requests they shared.
- Commit to praying for them regularly.
- Send a quick message letting them know you are looking forward to your next meeting.

One Final Thought

The point of these meetings is to show your Apprentice how to live their life with Jesus, in Jesus, and for Jesus. But don't forget: you're not just shaping their future – you're becoming part of it. Years from now, they may not remember every conversation, but they will remember how you made them feel seen, known, and called higher.

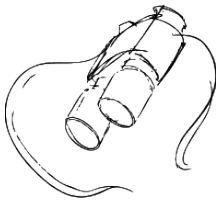
You don't need to have all the answers.
Just show up with presence.
Speak with honesty.
Listen with grace.
And let Jesus do the rest.
Thank you for walking this path with them. You're doing holy work.

Progression of Questions

The questions you will be given to ask your Apprentice are designed to build from meeting to meeting and align with the other parts of the journey on the Aion Path. In general:

- **Year 1** is devoted to engaging the Apprentice in the journey and the relationship with their father.
- **Year 2** is about equipping them with skills and competency for life.
- **Year 3** is focused on developing their leadership and service to others.

If you're a *Spiritual Guide*...



...your conversation plans are designed explore their spiritual development. You will be provided with sets of questions for one year at a time, and we will include the questions your Apprentice will ask you so you can think ahead about what you want to say. Here is the overall progression you can expect for your six conversations.

Year 1 – Engagement: Awakening a Personal Faith

Focus: Explore personal stories, invite honesty with God, and normalize spiritual curiosity and doubt

- Help the Apprentice recognize moments where God may already be at work
- Share faith journeys and build trust
- Introduce the idea of spiritual intimacy, not just religious activity

Year 2 – Equipping: Growing Deeper with God

Focus: Develop spiritual habits, discernment, and emotional honesty with God

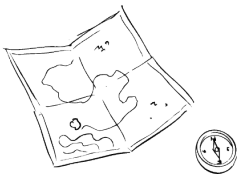
- Model and guide practices like Scripture reflection, prayer, journaling, solitude
- Normalize seasons of dryness or waiting
- Equip them to listen for God's voice and apply it to real decisions

Year 3 – Empowering: Leading from a Rooted Life

Focus: Help the Apprentice see their faith as a source of strength, influence, and service

- Explore how to live with integrity, stand firm, and lead with humility
- Encourage mentoring others, sharing faith, and living out spiritual convictions with grace
- Invite them to imagine and pursue their spiritual legacy

If you're a *Financial Guide*...



...your conversation plans are designed explore their understanding of stewardship. You will be provided with sets of questions for one year at a time, and we will include the questions your Apprentice will ask you so you can think ahead about what you want to say. Here is the overall progression you can expect for your six conversations.

Year 1 – Engagement: Understanding Money and Stewardship

Focus: Build curiosity, tell stories, and reflect on early money messages

- Explore the emotional and spiritual role of money
- Introduce the concept of stewardship and responsibility
- Normalize talking about money through a biblical lens

Year 2 – Equipping: Practicing Wisdom and Discipline

Focus: Teach core skills and healthy money habits

- Budgeting, saving, giving, compound interest, avoiding debt
- Introduce frameworks for biblical generosity and discernment
- Cultivate confidence in decision-making

Year 3 – Empowering: Using Money to Bless and Lead

Focus: Prepare the Apprentice to lead and serve with financial integrity

- Discuss legacy, influence, and generosity
- Explore how to use wealth to glorify God and help others
- Frame money as a tool, not a goal – and challenge them to dream with purpose

If you're a *Vocational Guide*...

...your conversation plans are designed explore their approach to their future career. You will be provided with sets of questions for one year at a time, and we will include the questions your Apprentice will ask you so you can think ahead about what you want to say. Here is the overall progression you can expect for your six conversations.

Year 1 – Engagement: Seeing Work as Worship

Focus: Spark curiosity about vocation and identity through meaningful work

- Help the Apprentice explore interests, values, and role models
- Emphasize that all work matters to God, not just "church work"
- Model a mindset of work as worship — done with excellence, integrity, and purpose
- Encourage reflection on who they are becoming, not just what they want to do

Year 2 – Equipping: Building Habits and Vision

Focus: Equip the Apprentice with the mindset and habits needed to grow in skill and character

- Teach the importance of diligence, resilience, responsibility, and teachability
- Share honest stories about skill-building, career detours, and character challenges
- Discuss how to respond to failure, pursue feedback, and find mentors
- Reinforce that the goal isn't just achievement, but becoming the kind of person God can use

Year 3 – Empowering: Serving Others Through Work

Focus: Inspire a vision for work that blesses others and honors God

- Help them identify ways their gifts and passions can meet real needs in the world
- Discuss integrity, influence, leadership, and legacy in the workplace
- Encourage them to dream about how they can serve through their future work
- Invite them to view their future career as a calling — wherever God places them