



Thank you for your interest in Woven Lives, a BSG-sponsored mentoring ministry for Bethel community women. Below are program details.

Mission Statement

Woven Lives provides opportunities for developing intentional student-mentor relationships that encourage, sharpen, and expand Bethel women's effectiveness for the kingdom of God.

Our mission is rooted in Hebrews 10:24-25: *And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Program Basics

Woven Lives is a mentoring program for female students in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). It pairs student applicants with women from Bethel's faculty and staff (all schools). The goal is to encourage and support students through a mentoring relationship that begins mid-October and concludes at the end of April. Mentorships are developed through one-on-one meetings that each pair plans.

- **Application:** Students who want to participate must [apply online](#) by October 1. Mentors [sign up](#) online as well; returning mentors are asked to sign up each year.
- **Start:** Students and mentors are paired in mid-October. An email is sent to each participant giving the name and contact info of her mentoring partner.
- **Large-Group Meetings:** There are two: An October kickoff celebrates the program's start and provides a brief orientation. A fun gathering to recharge and refocus is held in January.
- **One-on-One Meetings:** Most of the program consists of one-on-one mentoring meetings. These are typically twice a month. Each pair decides when and where to meet as well as the format of their meetings. At the first meeting, it's critical that pairs discuss expectations, especially what the student wants from the mentorship. Many pairs choose to meet for coffee, a snack, or lunch. Some opt to pray together, discuss a book, go for a walk, or attend chapel or other campus events.
- **Resources:** The [website](#) hosts an [online registration](#) form. A Moodle site provides participants with meeting ideas and mentoring resources.
- **End:** The program concludes at the end of April. Each mentorship ends at this point, unless both the mentor and student choose to continue.

Mentoring Basics

Just as each student-mentor pair is unique, so each mentoring relationship is unique and will look different than the next one. Students seek out mentors for a variety of reasons: Some are looking for a light, fun connection with an older mentor. Some desire spiritual encouragement or accountability. Some may want to pray with their mentor. Some may want to discuss a book or Bible study material with their mentor. Most want to process life situations with someone who cares and, when asked, who will offer a mature perspective and godly wisdom.

Regardless of each student's desires and expectations, all mentorships have these components:

- **Fun:** Create a positive, relaxed, friendly atmosphere.
- **Conversation:** Talk naturally about life- activities: your thoughts, feelings, challenges, joys, stresses, beliefs, and decisions. Listen well and ask questions.
- **Trust:** Be honest and authentic. Keep your word. Protect personal information.
- **Graciousness:** Avoid judgmental remarks. Find ways to affirm. Show care.
- **Insight:** Contribute relevant, practical, godly input at appropriate times.
- **Growth:** Aim for mutual growth in areas of faith and character.

Here are some other points that help define the mentoring relationship:

- A mentorship is a purposeful friendship.
- It is built slowly over time.
- It requires leadership and involvement from both student and mentor.
- It requires confidentiality.
- It requires both humility and boldness.
- It is forward-paying; mentees someday become mentors.
- It is a two-way blessing: both mentors and mentees are enriched and challenged.
- It is not counseling or lecturing.
- It is not a rescue mission, a fix-it service, or a create-a-clone program.
- It is not a lifelong commitment. It has an end.

Contact Us

For more info about the Woven Lives program, please contact the leadership team at woven-lives@bethel.edu.