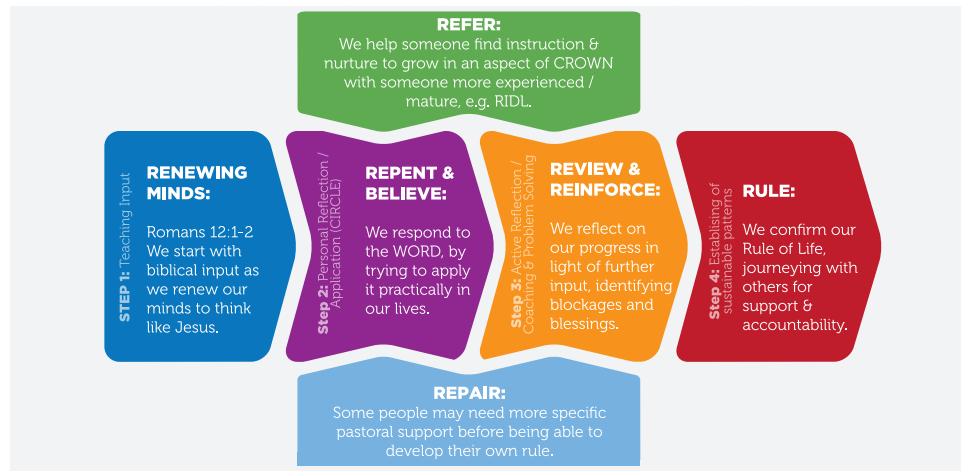


Try to get them to contextualise it to St Michael's: so which area of ministry might they serve in? Using the CROWN discussion starter questions can help encourage self-reflection.

Enabling the mentee to overcome the blockages positions them to be fruitful for God by forming sustainable Offering rhythms. Do point them to the CROWN coaches for practical input and support, especially in terms of identifying and growing in their specific gifting.



FOCUS ON WHAT GOD IS BLESSING: the other key focus in building a strong pattern is helping the mentee discern where God is at work. Specifically, in Offering, we are leading people deeper into the character of servanthood and towards recognising and using the gifts God has placed within them for the sake of his church. We want to help them be positioned to serve well, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to anoint their offering - so that it has lasting, even eternal impact.

STEP 4: FORMING A RULE

As things become clearer, encourage the mentee to begin to write their rule down. This may include practical steps that help establish and protect the patterns - as well as the practical detail of their rhythm. If it is hard to get started, try sharing examples (see CROWN example rhythms booklet). Once a personal rule has been resolved, move on with the mentee to another element of CROWN, noting that as we grow in our faith, it would be good to return to this at some point and ask how God might be leading them to develop their pattern further.

OTHER RESOURCES: CROWN Discussion Starter Questions. CROWN Example Rhythms. CROWN Mentor Guide. CROWN Life-Beats Study Booklets. CROWN Teaching Videos.

We value using our gifts as we join God's plan to renew all creation, bringing glimpses of heaven to earth.



Offering

CROWN MENTOR QUICK-GUIDE BUILDING A PERSONAL OFFERING RULE

AIM

To work with a group or mentee to enable them to form rhythms that become a consistent, life-giving and sustainable personal rule for the Offering element of the CROWN rule of life.

WHAT MIGHT THAT LOOK & FEEL LIKE?

The mentee will be growing in the attitudes and characteristics of a servant. Their serving increasingly will flow from a growing security in their status as a beloved Child of God rather than striving or finish their identity in doing. They are attentive to God's call, giving their all to pursue that. This will overflow into their personal relationships, work and the church. They will exhibit a growing awareness of their gifting and seek the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that God's work is seen in growing measure. They will be able to express what they long to do for God before they die - and how they are stepping towards that, seeing and celebrating how God is using them.

PREPARE

Have in mind the broad process and steps for guiding people to form rhythms (see diagram) and reflect on which stage you feel they have reached. Make time to pray for those you are journeying with, seeking the LORD's wisdom and insight to help them to grow. Note any Scriptures, thoughts, questions or impressions that come to mind which may be useful for when you meet.

STEP 1: RENEWING MINDS - SCRIPTURE

(See the Life Beats Studies for further details)

Serving, Calling, Obedience & Gifting: Philippians 2:1-11, Mark 10 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4:8-11

Spend some time with the mentee establishing the biblical foundations behind the rhythm by discussing the passages or working through the study material. They can also watch some of the relevant CROWN short teaching videos available on-line between sessions. Work with the questions this provokes, looking at other passages and resources that might be useful to help the mentee come to an personally owned understanding of these key principles.

An Offering Rhythm positions us to be useful to the LORD. As we play our part in his plan to renew all of creation, he multiplies what we bring - and we have the joy of seeing him use us.

this is part of how we express our place in the body of Christ. There is nothing more exciting than to be used by God - and this just needs faith rather than experience!

For well established Christians, the questions may be more qualitative - like, when did God last use them? Are they seeing glimpses of heaven breaking into earth or has their service become routine, relying on their own skills and experience? Explore how they can depend on God more in their serving - perhaps through a more intentional use of spiritual gifts such as prophecy.

It is also important to tease out which area of their life to develop their pattern in. Is their primary ministry at work? If so, how can they be influential as a Christian, and how can the church help them? Do they need to develop in their gifting - growing in their service in the life of the church? It's also helpful to consider the ways rhythms overlap; how might their service fit within their community or networks patterns? But be realistic about what is resolved, it is better to take small 'baby steps' that can be sustained than do too much that will end in failure and discouragement. However, do agree clear steps with the expectation (and accountability) that they will be seen through. These will provide the basis for reflection and the shaping of their eventual rule.

STEP 2: REPENT AND BELIEVE

WHAT IS GOD SAYING? Explore what it means to respond to the biblical teaching. It can sometimes be hard for busy people to see beyond their existing commitments, so at this stage it may help to ask what they would do if they were starting from scratch? What are their deepest longings in serving Christ and his kingdom? Do they have a sense of vision or purpose, expressed by things they long to see God do? **In essence, what would an ideal Offering rhythm look like?**

ESTABLISH A BASELINE: Having established a sense of what God might be saying to them, it is important to ground this in reality. Where do they think they are at with an Offering pattern right now? Which element of Offering is the most challenging to them? (Where) are they seeing Kingdom fruit in their lives? Are they doing too many things to flourish in their real areas of gifting? Have they gone stale? Do their patterns fit well with their present season of life?

TAKING THE NEXT STEP: Explore with the mentee what the first or next step of commitment to an Offering rhythm looks like. For new believers, it is important to impress the need to serve and play a part -

STEP 3: REVIEW AND REINFORCE

OVERCOMING BLOCKAGES: As people seek to grow in Offering, there may be specific challenges they come up against. An Offering rule may provoke and tease out some significant pastoral issues. If someone knows they have disobedience in their walk with Jesus - it can be a real barrier to fruitfulness. Helping them face this - and repent - could remove a fundamental blockage, but will need to come with much reassurance about the grace and forgiveness of God

Issues around motivations and identity may emerge too. Do they compare themselves with others too much? Are they comfortable about their gifting - do they celebrate the ministries of others?