

TIPS AND IDEAS FOR USING THE After College Transition Series

- *Plan for 2 ½ hours together for each session, beginning with dinner together.
- *Meet monthly over the course of spring semester. This allows students to stay in their regular Bible Study Group without being overwhelmed.
- *Invite those who will be graduating in May and in the following December.
- *Survey alumni from the last 10 years or so and ask them for advice they would give new grads about what's coming in each of the areas in the series. Compile their comments according to topic and share as a part of each session.
- *Give them questions on the session topics to discuss with the random smaller group they are sitting with while eating:
 - Session 1 – Share MBTI and spiritual gifts results
 - Session 2 – What would your dream job look like?, What is the scariest thing about the work world?
 - Session 3 – What are the most common ways for you to waste time and money?
 - Session 4 - Which spiritual discipline do you think the Lord seems to use most in your life?, What is one thing you are determined to accomplish in your lifetime?
- *Add additional content as you wish on each topic.
- *Consider bringing in outside experts to present things such as gifting, interviewing, writing resumes, budgeting, etc
- *If necessary divide in to smaller groups for the Bible Study discussion portion. The Bible studies are designed to give them a scriptural foundation for each topic. They are not designed for depth as there will be people at all places in the walk with Christ in this group.
- *The journal pages at the end of the study are designed to be written in at the end of each discussion while the group is still together. They are designed to be the summary/application portion of the study which they will be able to access easily during the last session to make final applications.
- *The highlight of this series is not the studies or the presentations themselves but it is getting the students together in a safe place to talk about their fears and dreams with people who are in the same stage of life with similar hopes and concerns. Gathering helpful information and scriptural foundations is extremely important, but it comes alive in a community discussing it together. Sharing a meal together (a FREE meal if possible☺) is essential.

AFTER COLLEGE TRANSITION SERIES

By Ronni Bernardy

SESSION 1 ~~~ Community / Church

Assignment: (allow 90 minutes)

- *Prepare "Community" study
- *Take the spiritual gifts inventory and the short version MBTI online (websites in study)

Session will include:

- *General transition tips from recent alumni input
- *Discussion of community study
- *Discussion of MBTI and spiritual gift inventory results

SESSION 2 ~~~ Work / Insider

Assignment: (allow 90 minutes)

- *Prepare "Work" study
- *Prepare "Insider" study
- *Make a list of the 10 non-believers you know best right now
- *Read the information on Interviewing and Resumes

Session will include:

- *Discussion of Work and Insider studies
- *Presentation on the Work World After College

SESSION 3 ~~~ Money / Time

Assignment: (allow 90 minutes)

- *Prepare "Money" study
- *Prepare "Time" study
- *Read "Tyranny of the Urgent"

Session will include:

- *Discussion of Money and Time studies
- *Presentation on finances and budgeting

Session 4 ~~~ Life Long Walking / Laboring with the Lord

Assignment: (allow 90 minutes)

- *Prepare "Walking with God..." study (30 minutes)
 - *Set aside at least an hour to work through the "Vision" page.
- Take time to pray through the "Show stoppers" and identify any that you think could be possible problems for you.

Session will include:

- *Discussion of studies
- *Time for final applications and accountability plan
- *Prayer / Send off

COMMUNITY

What aspects of “community” do you find in the following accounts of the first century believers?

Acts 1:12-14

Acts 2:42-47

Acts 11:19-30

Acts 20:17-38

What further insights can you draw from Paul’s heart for the community he is writing to?

Philippians 1:3-11

I Thessalonians 1:2-10

The One-Anothers

Read the following passages on the “one anothers”. How does the Lord ask us to relate to one another? (Highlight key words and phrases.)

John 12:34-35...“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Hebrews 3:12-13...“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

Hebrews 10:24,25...“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

Romans 12:10...“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Romans 15:7...“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

I Thessalonians 5:11...“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

I Thessalonians 5:15...“Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.”

Galatians 5:13...“We, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.”

Galatians 6:2...“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

James 5:16...“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

Colossians 3:13...“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Colossians 3:16... "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

Ephesians 4:32... "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 5:21... "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

I Peter 3:8... "Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble."

I Peter 4:8-10... "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins, Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

What phrase or phrases stand out to you the most in the "one another" verses?

What aspect do you most need from others?

Which is the most difficult for you to offer others?

How do you balance your need for community with the need to be an "insider"?

Why do I need to seek community as I leave the college campus?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

I Corinthians 12

Ephesians 4:16

Hebrews 3:13

Hebrews 10:24,25

FINDING YOUR BEST CONTRIBUTION

In what ways are you gifted to contribute to a community?

It may be helpful to do some research on yourself at this point!

If you have never taken a spiritual gifts inventory, take this on-line test:

<http://www.kodachrome.org/spiritgift/>

Likewise if you have never taken the Meyers Briggs personality test , take the shortened free version at:

<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp>

Each inventory will take about 15-20 minutes and both give instant results.

Bring your results with you to our next meeting.

If you have taken these tests/inventories in the past, bring your results with you to the meeting.

These tests are not the "final answer" in telling you where you will fit, but it may help you to find ways you can serve that will energize and develop you.

Did any of the results surprise you? How?

CHURCH

One of the most important things you can do during your transition time is to find a church to get connected with.

“Each Christian should select his church because he is convinced that within its particular structure he will find the greatest opportunities for spiritual growth, the greatest satisfactions for his human needs, and the greatest chance to be of helpful service to those around him.” --Billy Graham, *Peace with God*

Some questions to consider:

- *Are you looking for a specific denomination?
- *Do you have specific beliefs your church would need to match?
- *Do you prefer a particular type of worship style?
- *Are there ministries /programs that you could see yourself involved with?
- *Do you prefer a smaller or a larger church?

Misc Tips:

- *If the church has a website, check it out before you visit.
- *Call before visiting to verify service times.
- *Ask people you meet in the area for recommendations.
- *Take a friend with you if possible.
- *When you visit, ask for the church’s mission statement and doctrinal beliefs.
- *Narrow your search down to 2 or 3 churches and attend each for 3 or 4 weeks in a row before making a final decision.
- *Realize that no church is perfect, but look for the one that fits you best.
- *PRAY...for wisdom and discernment in choosing a church and for patience as you look.

PRACTCAL TIPS:

- *Live fully in the place where you are. (Because you can’t live where you are NOT!)
- *PRAY for new relationships and for wisdom in where and how you become involved.
- *When you choose a church get involved, but avoid making too many commitments. (It’s best to start by choosing one study/activity/service area and do it well.)
- *Also avoid becoming isolated.
- *Be willing to take some risks.

WORK

Work is an important part of your life. You will spend about 30% of your life at work!!

WHY do we need to work?

Mark 6:3 (even Jesus worked for most of His life!)

Ephesians 4:28

I Thessalonians 4:11,12

I Timothy 5:8

Record observations from the following passages that relate to employee-employer relationships, work ethics and attitudes:

Nehemiah 4:6

Proverbs 22:29

Ephesians 6:5-7

Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

“The sense that all of life must be lived for God opens all vocations to the possibility for spiritual influence. Thus believers must permeate society. Christians need to live with integrity and make distinctive contributions in the social, scientific, artistic, educational, and political life of the nation.” -- Don Eberly, *Restoring the Good Society*

In light of the scripture and quote above, what thoughts do you have about the following areas:

*servanthood in the workplace

*response to authority

*integrity

*compromise

*complaining verses encouragement

*authenticity

Beware of developing competencies at work without developing character in your heart.

BEING AN INSIDER

“..this calling (to participate in what God is doing today) is to be worked out within their existing relational networks where they are already positioned as insiders. God intends that every part of our daily life should line up with His purposes, to His glory. ...this is something that is within reach for all of us, not just the gifted few.” --The Insider

What role in the world does Jesus see His followers playing?

John 17:15-23

I Peter 2:9-12

Jesus called His disciples to “come follow”. But there were others that He did not ask to follow Him. Why?

Mark 5:14-20

John 4:28-30, 39

How should we relate to the non-believers around us?

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 9:9-13

Luke 6:27-36

Luke 14:12-14

“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

--John Maxwell

What did Paul expect of the local believers?

Romans 12:14-21

I Corinthians 5:9-13

Philippians 2:14-16

Colossians 4:2-6

The concept of being an Insider challenges traditional ministry assumptions:

- *the ordinary believer has a key role (it’s NOT just the Pastor’s job)
- *the ordinary believer is a vital participant (not just a spectator)
- *the ordinary believer is a minister (not just a helper)
- *the Holy Spirit oversees the ministry (not the Pastor)
- *all can play a part (not just the gifted)
- *minister where you are (not limited to running programs at church)
- *minister with what you have right now (a lot of training is not necessary)

What steps will you take After College to make sure that you are developing authentic relationships with non-believers?

TIME

*"Time is free, but it's priceless.
You can't own it, but you can use it.
You can't keep it, but you can spend it.
Once you've lost it, you can never get it back."
--Harvey MacKay*

How should we view time?

Job 14:5

Psalm 39:4

Psalm 90:12

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Ephesians 5:15,16

James 4:14

2 Peter 3:8

Revelation 1:8

What does the Lord say about rest?

Matthew 11:28-30

Mark 6:30-32

Hebrews 4:9-11

Read the booklet, "Tyranny of the Urgent!"

Based on the scripture above and the booklet, what adjustments do you need to make in the way you view and use your time?

Thinking ahead to After College, what is one thing you want to remember and apply?

RESOURCE:

"Margin" by Richard Swenson

("How to create the emotional, physical, financial, and time reserves you need")

MONEY

What Is God's perspective on money (and possessions)?

Record any principles or observations about money that you see in the following passages:

Proverbs 3:9,10

Proverbs 11:25

Proverbs 21:17

Proverbs 22:7

Proverbs 23:4,5

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Matthew 6:19-34

Luke 12:34

Luke 16:10-13

Luke 21:1-4

Acts 20:35

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Colossians 3:5

I Timothy 6:6-10

I Timothy 6:17-19

James 5:1-3

Hebrews 13:5

Based on what you've read, comment on 4 of the following money related topics:

Greed

Contentment

Trusting God for needs

Possessions

Idols

American advertising

Impulsive spending

Debt

Wealth

Giving

Poverty

As you look to your future, how do you hope to view money?

How can you keep from being "possessed by your possessions"?

What scripture will you use for the basis of your convictions on money?

What practical steps can you take now as you examine your view and use of money?

"Contentment is wanting what we have, not having what we want." –Kenton Beshore, Jr.

"People must learn to handle the smallest things God has placed under their authority—their money—before He can trust them with greater things." --Caleb McAfee

RESOURCES on financial management and budgeting:

www.crown.org

www.DaveRamsey.com

<http://navconnect.navigators.org/2009/11/19/budgeting-101/>

Books by: Larry Burkett, Dave Ramsey, Randy Alcorn

A VISION THAT CAPTIVATES

The Nav Calling Statement: (not just for college!)

“To advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.”

Our vision for alumni:

“Laborers or workers next door to everywhere. Ordinary people, in many walks of life, joyfully leading integrated lives and living as fruitful insiders among the lost.”

What excites you about this vision?

What troubles you or causes confusion for you?

In light of these scriptures, what would you like your life to look like in the next 5 years?

2 Timothy 2:2

Acts 1:8

Matthew 9:36-38

What will it take for you to carry out this vision in your life?

Write some goals to help you move toward your vision regarding:

The Word of God

Community

Lifestyle

Accountability

What obstacles do you foresee?

WALKING WITH GOD.....FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

Read John 15:1-17 and write down observations about:

- *What God does
- *What Jesus asks of us
- *What the results are of obeying Christ

From the following scripture, write down any observations or principles that you see necessary for someone to be moving forward spiritually.

John 12:24-26

I Corinthians 9:24-27

Ephesians 5:15-17

Hebrews 12:1-3

What “habits” or “disciplines” have you established that have helped you to grow spiritually during your college years?

What will you do to make sure that you take those habits / disciplines with you when you leave?

It is absolutely essential that you place a high priority on the Word of God if you are going to continue to grow in your faith. If you are not in the Word you will not be growing in your relationship with the Lord, and if you aren't growing in relationship you will not be able to trust Him and grow in your faith....and your love for Him will grow cold.

Consider these comments on faith from Richard Halverson, late Chaplain of the US Senate:

“Think of faith as an accepting – growing – deepening relationship with Jesus Christ.”

“The object of faith determines the validity of faith”

“To live by faith – to walk by faith – is to trust – to rest – in the faithfulness of God, the trustworthiness of Jesus Christ, the sufficiency of His love and grace, the certainty of His promises.”

“Authentic faith depends upon the Word of God no matter how strong one's feelings may be to the contrary.”

“One cannot have faith in what one does not know!”

“Faith is not something that can be generated within one by struggle or effort. Faith comes with knowledge of that which is trustworthy.”

What is necessary for growth in our faith?

SHOW STOPPERS

THINGS THAT COULD DERAIL YOUR VISION

Materialism

Dating relationships

Purity Issues

Extreme focus on leisure activities

Taking too much liberty in gray areas

Lack of fellowship / accountability

No time invested in walk with God

Success at work / over working

Post Modern thinking / New Age

Addictions

Good Causes

Bitterness / Unforgiveness

TV /Video games

Time spent on the Internet

Undisciplined sleep schedule

JOURNAL PAGES

At the end of each session together we will take a few minutes to write on these pages to help you summarize and keep track of what you are learning.

SESSION 1

What are your biggest fears about graduating?

What did you learn about yourself from the MBTI and spiritual gifts inventory?

What is one thing you could begin to apply right now from the Community Study

If you were graduating and entering the work world tomorrow, what is one thing you would hope to apply from this session?

What scripture influenced or encouraged you the most from this session?

SESSION 2

What fears do you have about developing work relationships after college?

What is one thing you could begin to apply right now from this session?

What is one thing you want to remember during your after college transition?

What scripture influenced or encouraged you the most from this session?

SESSION 3

What fears do you have about managing your money and time?

What is one thing you could begin to apply right now?

What is one thing you for sure want to apply after college?

What scripture influenced or encouraged you the most from this session?

SESSION 4

What do you think it will take for you to continue to walk with God after college?

What plan do you have to make this happen?

What scripture would you like to begin to pray in to your life?

What vision do you have for how you would like to see God use your life?