

College Prep. 101

March 2007



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The future, more specifically high school graduation, is something most, if not all, teens think about and look forward to. As graduation gets closer, questions from teens and adults arise such as, "Which college will I attend?", "What will my major be?", and "How in the world are we going to pay for this?" It should be comforting to know that you are not alone. In fact, 2.94 million students graduate from more than 27,000 high schools each year in the United States (msnbc.com). While some of this information can be overwhelming, here are some things to stay focused on as you help your teen down the road to graduation. The first thing you must do is be prepared! Find out all the information you can about each college your teen is considering. Talk to students who attend those schools and ask what they think. Look on the Internet to read and study the newest **US News and World Report's** college ranking report (www.usnews.com/usnews/rankguide/rghome.htm). If possible, go visit the campus. Spending a few hundred dollars to find out your teen does not like a college is better than spending thousands on a semester of misery. Second, remember that behind every successful teen, there is a supportive network. If you look at the enrollment of the most competitive colleges, you'll find that most of the kids who attend have been assisted enormously by families, mentors, community members, teachers, or all of the above (msnbc.com). Third, remember that God is in control. Through all of the waiting, disappointment, excitement, and worry, God will use your tireless preparation, never-ending support, and countless prayers to reveal His perfect plan.

Greetings Parents

The month of March has reached its end and spring is on the horizon. I hope this newsletter finds all of you sitting at the feet of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we press on towards intimacy and fellowship.

This month has been an exciting month. We began by teaching on Paul and how he encountered Jesus. We found that Saul who would become Paul was transformed and changed by his encounter with Jesus and we have been inviting the youth each and every day to encounter who Jesus really is?

We found that our youth have a very limited and often skewed view of Jesus and we have begun to paint a different picture for them. With each stroke of the brush, so to speak, the Holy Spirit is revealing a more clear and relevant picture.

Our main focus this month has been on the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This topic has proved interesting as many of you know it speaks to the very spirit of rebellion and resistance that often accompanies our young people, yet His Lordship is basic and foundational to a relationship with Him.

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BELOW.....



Pulse

Some interesting thoughts on college...

After graduation, I plan to:

- 65% - Go to college or a trade school.
- 15% - Get a job.
- 15% - Figure it out when the time comes.
- 5% - Travel around for a while.

(libraryloft.org)

Christian teens who go to college or a university should...

- 21% - Attend a Christian institution.
- 3% - Attend a secular institution.
- 61% - Pick based on interests and personality.
- 16% - Attend wherever they can afford!

(pluggedinonline.com)



The Parent POV

(point of view)

Planning for the future takes hard work and perseverance, but it really does pay off in the end. Here are some questions to ask your teen as they prepare for college and their future.

1. What do you like to do for fun? Why? If you had to do something all day long, what would it be and why?

2. Do you think college is necessary to meet the goals you have set for yourself? Why or why not?

3. If you could pick your dream college, what would it be? What needs to happen to make this dream a reality?

4. Where does God fit in as you plan for the future? Do you think He has a plan for you? How do you figure this plan out?



Focus on Prayer

Pray that:

1. God will reveal His plan for your son/daughter in a real and clear way.
2. God will give your teen the desire to do things with excellence in every area of their lives as they grow to become godly adults.
3. As parents, you will be able to support and encourage your teen in whatever profession or passion they pursue.
4. God will allow you to see every obstacle in getting ready for college as an opportunity to grow in your relationship with Christ.

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Many of our youth are deceived into believing that Christ's Lordship is opposed to them becoming free, self-governing adults. I am sure those might not be their exact words, but they tend to see commandments as an end to their ability to choose for themselves, "Church is just a bunch of do this and don't do that", they might say. Yet, to the contrary Jesus as Lord of their life is more liberty and freedom than they can fathom.

We are continuing to paint a picture of who Jesus really is and praying that all of them would have an encounter with the Risen Lord. We encourage all of our youth to fervently pray for this ministry. We believe the Lord has called this generation to Himself.

So many of them have eyes fixed on so many other things, pray that they fix their eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of their faith. Hebrews 12:2

Please visit the church website often. The youth ministry has its own page where you can listen into what the Holy Spirit is saying to our youth. www.vcfphoenix.com

We hope you are encouraged, until the next time, may the Lord bless all of you.



Did you know...

* In October 2005, 68.6% of high school graduates from the class of 2005 were enrolled in colleges or universities. (bls.gov)

* Attending a public four-year college nationwide costs an average of \$15,783 per year, while attending a private four-year college nationwide costs an average of \$22,218 per year for tuition and fees. (readyssetgotocollege.com)

* Students who engage in extracurricular activities in college are the happiest students as well as the most successful in the classroom. They seem to find a way to connect their academic work to their personal lives. (msnbc.com)

* 107 students out of 300,000 test takers received perfect scores of 2400 on the first round of the new SATs in 2005 (msnbc.com)

