



# SURVIVAL KIT FOR COLLEGE

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## HOW TO KEEP AND GROW YOUR FAITH WHEN YOU LEAVE HOME

You might be ready to pack your stuff and leave home, but is your faith ready?

### Know what you believe and why

What you believe is the most important thing about you. Have you internalized the faith you've always known?

Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life. (John 14:6)

The Bible is God's revealed Word. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

God is one God, but three distinct persons. (Genesis 1:26)

Every soul is a sinner and sin is the reason for evil. (Romans 5:12)

Good works are not enough to earn favor with God and get to heaven. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

To find peace with God, you must be born again by faith in Jesus' death on the Cross. (John 3)

Salvation comes not by our effort, but by God's grace. (Titus 3:5)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ really happened and is the centerpiece of our faith (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)

Every believer possesses the Holy Spirit inside of them. (1 Corinthians 3:16)

### What should I do with my life?

The choices you make reveal the direction your life is headed. It's good to do a periodic self-evaluation and ask yourself some questions. Is my life headed in a good direction? Is it a direction God intended? How can I best know the will of God? What are my best gifts, strengths, and opportunities?

You were carefully created, deliberately designed, and purposely placed on this earth. (Psalm 139:14)

Before the foundation of the world, God chose you for a special purpose. (Ephesians 1:3-4)

You are accepted and loved by the Creator of the universe (Ephesians 1:6-7)

The highest purpose is to give your life for cause greater than yourself. (John 15:13)

God wants to guide you every step of the way. (Psalm 139:10; Jeremiah 29:11)

You make a difference in the world by being different from the world. (Romans 12:1)

God will work through your gifts and your talents to reveal His will. (Psalm 37:4-5)

If your heart is close to God's, His desires will be your desires. (Psalm 37:4-5)

### How to make good choices

Life is a sum of a bunch of little choices.

Pray for wisdom—the ability to make good choices in critical moments. God promises to dispense this without limit. (1 Kings 3; James 1:5)

Get good people around you, a mix of older, younger, parents, friends, pastors, youth pastors. (Proverbs 11:14; 1 Corinthians 15:33)

Seek God's face in prayer and ask His Spirit to guide you. (Jeremiah 33:3)

Make the Bible your guide (Hebrews 4:12)

Do something. Don't live a life of hedging and wondering. (Philippians 4:9; 1 Samuel 14:6)

Make your own decisions; remember you're accountable to God. (Romans 14:12)

Consider the impact of your decisions on others. (Philippians 2:4)

Move toward responsibility, choose hard work, and handle your money wisely. (Ecclesiastes 9:10; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Luke 12:34)

Don't look for the perfect guy, be the perfect girl. Don't look for the perfect girl, be the perfect guy. (Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 31:10)

### Staying true in a world of lies

The world is calling you, the enemy is tempting you, and your heart is lying to you.

Have integrity when nobody is looking. (Daniel 1:8)

Don't despise biblical boundaries, embrace them. (Daniel 1:8)

Do the right thing, even when it costs you. (Genesis 39:9)

Temptation isn't a sin, yielding is. (Matthew 4:10)

If you're a believer, you have an old nature that likes to sin and a new nature redeemed by Christ. Whichever you feed controls you. (Galatians 5:16; Romans 13:14)

Encourage others toward spiritual maturity, not away from it. (Hebrews 10:24)

When you leave home, get plugged into church, campus groups, and Christian friends. Accountability is key. (Psalm 1)

Maintain a consistent devotional life. (Psalm 119:9-11)

Practice confession and humility. (1 John 1:8-10)

Guard your purity like a God-given treasure. (Psalm 101:3)

### Finding joy in a hard world

What happens when life doesn't happen you plan?

God uses change to mold our character. (Daniel 1:3-4)

Divorce doesn't have to destroy you. God is the God of the fatherless. (Psalm 68:5)

God offers healing and the ability to forgive through Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:32-33)

People will disappoint, God never will. (Psalm 146:3)

God can use evil in your life for His purpose. (Genesis 50:20)

Bitterness destroys only the person who carries it. (Hebrews 12:15)

Everything that happens in your life is good and is allowed by God. (James 1:17)

God is the God of grace, of second, third, and many chances. (Judges 16:28)

Life isn't fair, but God is just. (Genesis 50:20-21)

The secret to joy is contentment, gratitude, service, and intimacy with God. (Hebrews 13:5; John 13:14; Psalm 42:1)

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