



NEXT
CHAPTER
STUDENT
GUIDE

NextChapter

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Collegiate Ministries Specialist	

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Welcome to Nextchapter

Letter from our Baptist Collegiate Ministries Specialist

STEWARDSHIP	DECISION MAKING	RELATIONSHIPS	COMMUNITY	VISION	WORLDVIEW	TITLE
						SCRIPTURE
						FINISH STRONG
						START WELL
						END GOAL

Many of us, in our quiet moments, wonder if our life will be significant enough to be remembered, if maybe someday someone will want to write our biography. There already is a story that is being written about all of us and we are the authors. It is a type of autobiography. You are writing your story as you live your life, with every decision you make, the ones you consider big and small, significant and insignificant, and by the way you respond to what life throws at you.

You don't have a choice on whether you will write or not. Your only choice is how you will write. This is your life; no one can write, live it for you. You choose the direction of your story and to a large degree the outcome.

When others interface with you, they begin to read your story. Like looking at the cover or reading the jacket on a book, they will quickly determine to how much of your story they are going to expose themselves. As they get to know you, read more of your story, they will find out what you are all about, what is most important to you, where you're headed. They will decide whether they want to become a part of your story and invite you to become a part of theirs.

What story are you writing? Are you writing haphazardly or with the end

in mind? Who will play the biggest roles in your story? How big a part, will Jesus play? How big

is his current role? Only you can decide what part he will play. He will not write himself into your story without your permission.

At times we are not very good at writing our story. Even Paul said ...brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. (Referring to his not being the person he and Jesus wanted him to be) But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead... (Philippians 3:13). Paul never gave up, never quit growing; he kept learning. He didn't spend much time fretting over mistakes. He strived to learn from them and press on.

You are currently writing the last sentences, closing the chapter on your high school days. There are no rewrites, only new writes. You can take this new chapter in your life in any direction you please. You can begin being who you want to be. Here is your opportunity. In the following pages you will gain ideas from those further along in their story. Welcome to the Next Chapter.


John Strappazon
Baptist Collegiate Ministries Specialist

BCM
Moving Lives Forward...

HEBREWS 12:1-3

The best way to see our life is like a book of the Bible. We are a story with multiple chapters, hidden inside a greater story - God's story. Apart from His story, our story is of little relevance.

1. Names and plans:

Write down your name and your plans for the future.

2. Who is this "cloud of witnesses"?

3. What is entangling you right now from fully running the race? What is distracting you from fixing your eyes on Jesus?

4. The race isn't easy, but the good news is that others are already running it. Write down lessons from your local "cloud of witnesses".

5. Starting a new chapter of life can be scary. What are some fears you have as you consider the next chapter of your life?

The bible is a series of stories that make up a greater story. There are lots of characters in the bible, but only one main character... God. NextChapter is a bible study that looks at key principles learned from different characters' lives in the Bible. Their stories are meant to inspire us to make the most of our story. Your story is no different. Your story is one of many stories happening that make up the greatest story ever told. The good news is that God lets you be a part of the incredible story He is telling. You are at a point where you finish one part of your story to begin the next. It's the same book, but a different chapter.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE FUTURE:

The next page is designed as a one page summary of what you have learned. At the end of each lesson you have the opportunity to fill in the sections to remind you of what you learned. This sheet will also allow you to keep a summarization of each lesson in your "Next Chapter".

SECTIONS:

The "Scripture" section is designated for the key scriptures mentioned in each lesson.

The "Finish Strong" section is for you to write how the lessons apply today, as you finish high school.

- Example for Worldview:

Share my faith with my friends using something we both like.

The "Start Well" section is for you to write a plan for starting your next chapter well in the area mentioned.

- Example for Community:

Get active in a church home and a college ministry like BCM.

The "End Goal" section is who you want to be at the end of your next chapter, which for most is 4 or 5 years.

- Example for Decision Making:

Be a person who has scripture memorized that keeps me from debating a bad choice.



LUKE 16:1-12

Last week we talked about Joseph and stewardship. We learned that Stewardship is not about a Christian checklist, but that it is a lifestyle where you view God as the owner of everything. Therefore making decisions about everything the way God would make those decisions for you. This week, we're going to look specifically at our own lives and see how we can be good stewards in the areas of time, talent, and treasure.

1. Have you ever been trusted with an assignment and gotten lazy?
2. Read Luke 16:1-12. The Manager was nearly fired because he wasn't making the most of every opportunity. It's easy to go through the motions and forget God has us here for a purpose. Are you making the most of your time every day?
3. How does the manager respond? Is being dishonest the right thing to do?
4. The manager had a shrewd mind, a gift he'd gotten lazy with. We discussed things God has entrusted each of us with last week. They fit into the categories of time, talent, and treasure. Before moving on, which area do you allow God the most control over? Which area do you try to control the most, instead of giving it to God?
5. Read Deuteronomy 8:18, James 4:13-17, and 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. The manager had a gift, the ability to think shrewdly. List the talents God has given you. What do you think God wants you to do with these talents both now and in the future?
6. Read Luke 16:9-12 and Matthew 6:21. Jesus ends the parable by saying we should use worldly wealth for eternal purposes. Do you treasure the wealth itself, or what can be accomplished with the wealth for the kingdom of God? He also said in Matthew that where your treasure is, your heart will be also. What does that mean?
7. A good measuring stick of how much we value God is where we spend our time, energy, and money. He told us to use what we have for eternal purposes. How can you do that better?

DANIEL 1

The story of Daniel offers a glimpse of how one young man addresses a new world, a new worldview, and a host of new questions and issues. Not unlike Daniel, the transition to college for many students opens up new information and experiences that may cause us to question what we have grown up believing. How does Daniel respond to all of it, and how then should we?

1. Read Daniel 1:5-8. Here Daniel has been required to eat and drink from the king's food (or table). But Daniel resolves not to do so. Why do you think Daniel was concerned about what he was eating and drinking? Why was he committed to not eating from the king's table?
2. In light of the previous question, what are some examples of demonstrating devotion to God that would distinguish you from others?
3. Read Daniel 1:8. What does Daniel do here? What can we learn from it?
4. Read back over Daniel 1:1-8. One of the interesting features of this story is that it really doesn't tell us anything about how Daniel processed all that was going on in his life at the time. Surely Daniel struggled as he thought about how to respond in this sticky situation. After all, he was human just like we are. What might we learn from the fact that scripture only tells us about Daniel's actions?
5. Read Daniel 1:15-21. What was the fruit of Daniel's actions?
6. "Worldview" is the essential lens through which you view the world. As Christians, we are to view the world through the truths we find in the Bible. How does viewing the world this way make us different, the way Daniel was, from everyone else? Give some examples. How do you anticipate having a Christian worldview will change how you deal with new world in the next chapter of your life?

ACTS 17

A person's worldview distorts their perception of reality. How do we keep this from happening to us? What do we do when we face others who hold a distorted view of our world?

1. Paul needed to tear down false beliefs in his audience that would keep them from being able to understand who Jesus was and why He came. What are some popular ideas in America today that are a great hindrance to people understanding the Christian gospel?
2. Why does Paul start by referring to an altar in Athens that is to an unknown god? What are some things in American life and thought today that could serve as starting points to connect with people and help them understand the gospel?
3. Paul explains to the men in Acts 17 how the one true living God is everyone's: Creator (v.24), Sustainer (v.25), Ruler (v.26), Father (v.28), and Judge (v.30-31). Understanding that God is all of these things to every human person is essential to understanding the gospel. What are some ideas about God in our culture that keep us from seeing God as all of these things?
4. What important lesson can we learn from the response Paul received to his presentation?
5. What are some things we can do as Christians to protect ourselves from accepting false ideas about God and about life?
6. Read Philippians 3:3-9. Paul's journey started with him having a wrong worldview. His culture had taught him a false reality about how man related to God. What false views of reality do you have based on your culture or your past?



GENESIS 39-42

Being a good steward means making every decision in life the way the King would make that decision.

1. Read Genesis 41:37-44. Pharaoh placed all of Egypt under Joseph's command. The only person who had more power was Pharaoh himself. He was given the right to rule as he desired, but who did he answer to? What can this relationship between Joseph and Pharaoh teach us about our relationship with God as good stewards?
2. Using Joseph as an example, what characteristics make up a good steward?
3. Read Deuteronomy 8:10-18. God takes care of us. What causes us to forget or doubt God's providence? How do you avoid moving back to a mindset that says "you are in control"?
4. In Genesis 39-42, Joseph is trusted with Potiphar's house, the prison, his gift of interpreting dreams, and then all of Egypt. What have you been entrusted with?
5. Read Matthew 24:45-51. Keeping in mind that the King would return impacted the way the servants handled their leadership. Does the knowledge that you will answer to God for the quality of your stewardship impact your decisions? Why? And looking ahead, how does being a good steward impact the next chapter of your life?
6. Read Luke 16:10-13. In what areas of your life have you been a good or faithful steward? In what areas have you been a bad steward? In the next chapter of your life, in what areas do you need to intentionally focus on being a good steward?

Decision Making

Up, Out, and In

1 SAMUEL 13:11-14; 2 CHRONICLES 18:4-7; 2 SAMUEL 11

Life is a series of decisions. God gave us great examples, good and bad, of how we ought to make decisions. From these examples we have 3 practical steps to decision making: look up, look out, and look in. How do we look to the right places?

1. In the next chapter of life you will make some major decisions. What do you think some of those decisions are? Make a list of some of these decisions and share them.
2. In the areas we just discussed, are you confident about making the right decisions or scared you may act like the Kings of Israel and make some wrong ones?
3. David was faced with some major decisions, and in the case we mentioned, he blew it. Those decisions were brought on because of his first little wrong choice to stay home. What are some other smaller decisions you may have to face?
4. How do you look "Up"? (Matthew 6:33; James 1:5; Psalm 37:4; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Proverbs 3:5-6; 16:1-4, 9; Psalm 119:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)
5. To whom do you look "out"? Do you ever avoid asking somebody a question because you know you won't like their answer?
6. How do you go about looking "in"?
Every decision we make has immeasurable consequences. However, Proverbs 16:1-4 and 9 give us the peace of knowing that even though we make decisions, God is still in charge. We experience the most joy when our decisions match what He desires for us. Commit to always looking up, out, and in before making decisions in your next chapter of life.

Vision

I Spy Something Divine



LUKE 19:1-10

Zacchaeus is a man who experiences a change of vision - or worldview. The words are almost synonymous. Vision is the lens of history, culture, experience, values, and faith through which we view life. It influences our decisions, priorities, and purpose for living. Worldview could be defined as the way someone thinks about or sees the world.

1. Has Jesus changed the way you see the world? How?
2. How has that change of vision affected your life? How could it affect the world?
3. Jesus' followers have a Biblical worldview. They examine the Bible to help them make decisions in life. Turning to the scriptures should be a daily practice in your life to keep your vision clear. What is a decision you are facing now where you are not exactly sure what the Bible says on the issue?
4. What decisions do you think you will make in the next chapter of your life? How will those decisions be affected by the scriptures?
5. Give an example of how you live differently now, because of the change Jesus has made in your vision.
6. How do you feel about your friends and family and others who still see life through the eyes you used to see with before Christ changed your vision?

PROVERBS 29:18

A ten-question quiz for measuring your vision for the future. Anyone can say they have a vision for where they want to be, but what do your actions say?

Ask Yourself the following questions:

1. What am I doing with the Bible?
2. How does my past affect my vision for the future?
3. How am I preparing myself today for the future? (Psalm 90:12; Matthew 6:33-34)
4. Do I have godly counselors in my life? (Proverbs 11:14, 15:22, 24:6)
5. What am I doing with the principles revealed in Scripture that are for all of Christ's followers? (Luke 9:23; Luke 16:10, John 14:23)
6. How am I developing my skills and abilities in my areas of natural interest? (2 Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:23)
7. How am I responding to areas of Supernatural leading in my life? (Acts 17:11; 1 Samuel 3:7-11)
8. How is prayer involved in my preparation? (1 Chronicles 16:11; Matthew 26:41; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
9. What is the role of perseverance, discipline, and trials? (James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:11)
10. Which of the following questions do I ask myself more often?
"What does God want me to do?" or "Who does God want me to be?"

Where there is no vision for the future, people let go of restraint. Some translations say "Perish." Many people start their chapter of life after high school without real vision. This does not lead to a good outcome. To make the most of your next chapter, you need a vision for where you are going.



MATTHEW 1:18-22

The heroes in the Bible are such because of the decisions they made. In a world where everyone has a different opinion of what we should do, where do we look for answers when facing tough decisions?

1. Read Matthew 1:18-22. Joseph was put into a position where he was forced to make one decision over the other. Have you ever been in a position where you were forced to make a tough decision? Please share about that experience.
2. Read Psalm 119:105. What are some practical ways that the Bible is like a lamp to your feet in decision-making? What are the consequences for people who do not use God's Word when making decisions?
3. Read Romans 11:33. What are some ways that you tap into God's wisdom? Share about a decision that you are facing now or will soon face for which you need God's "wisdom and knowledge."
4. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What does it mean to practically trust in God with your whole heart? How can you acknowledge God in all your ways? Share about an experience when God has directed your path to make the right decision.
5. Read Proverbs 13:20. Who are some wise people that you can walk with in your decision-making? How can the wisdom of other people help you in your decision-making?
6. Read Proverbs 28:26. How can you walk in wisdom in you normal everyday life?

Relationships

Love and Relationships

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13; 1 JOHN 4:7-12

Love is central to any and all relationships. What is real love? How should we go about loving others? We will explore how love applies to life's various relationships.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-12. This passage talks about how love lasts and how we should mature in love over time. What are some ways to ensure your love for others will last and grow over time? Reflect on previous passages.
2. Read 1 John 4:11-12. This passage talks about motivations for loving others. According to verse 11, our primary motivation to love others is God's great love for us. How does that motivate us? Another motivation in verse 12 is that God will live in us and His love will grow in us. Why is that a motivation?
3. Read 1 John 4:9-10. This passage gives an even clearer definition to love by describing how God loved us sacrificially by sending His Son. Sacrifice means giving up something important to you for the sake of others. What are some important things you might give up for others as you move on from high school?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. This passage gives a clear definition of what it looks like to love others. Pick a specific relationship you will have after high school (friend, boss, professor, military commander, opposite sex, family, etc.) and walk through the list of love definitions. Talk specifically about how you might apply these aspects of love to that relationship. (For example: How can you be patient with a family member, kind to a boss, not envious of a friend, etc.)
5. Read 1 John 4:7-8. This passage talks about real love. How does the passage describe God as the source of real love? What can we conclude from that? How can we even know and share real love?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3,13. What phrases are used to describe doing great things without love? What do those phrases imply? Where does love rank in importance among great virtues? What is the significance of this ranking?

Again, love is critical in every relationship - from friends to enemies. Knowing the importance, definition, and lasting nature of love helps us to love others. Also understanding the source, the means, and the motivation for love also gives us the tools we need to love those in our lives. Make it a goal to grow in God's love as you enter this next stage in your life.

Community

Help! I Need Somebody!



EXODUS 6:11-13; 17:8-13; AND 18:1-24

The life God calls us to live and the purpose for which we exist is something that is realized through community. The people of God are a body whose life and mission are accomplished together, not alone.

1. Read Exodus 6:11-13. We know that Moses was educated and groomed to take over leadership in Egypt as a member of the royal family. And yet, here in Exodus 6:40, Moses finds himself unfit to speak publicly in service to God. What attitude or character trait can we see in Moses that probably helped him to understand the need for others/community in his life?
2. Read Exodus 17:8-13. In this story, Moses is assisted by both Aaron and Hur, who hold up his arms during the battle. We see that Moses was in need of his brothers to sustain him in his physical weakness. In terms of a spiritual principle, what is it that Aaron and Hur offer Moses in his time of need?
3. Read Exodus 18:13-24. What is it that Jethro helps Moses to understand regarding the responsibility of judging disputes among the people?
4. Stay in Exodus 18 and read verses 1-12. One of the important dimensions to life in community is the role of leaders. The Bible continually emphasizes the importance of spiritual leaders in our lives. How does Jethro prove to be a helpful and effective leader to Moses? How does Moses benefit from heeding Jethro's counsel?
5. In summary, what are the benefits Moses found from those who were placed around him?
6. Moses' community changed based on his location. His community was made up of Egyptians, then Midianites, and then Israelites. Your community will change based on what chapter of life you are in. Sometimes a select few will stay a part of your community. Who do you have as part of your community now that you want to keep in the community of your next chapter?

Community

We Need Each Other

JAMES 5:13-16; GALATIANS 6:1-3

The heroes in the Bible understood the need to work together. This lesson explains the Biblical mandate to help each other. The Christian life was meant to be done in community, but why?

1. In the book of Exodus, Moses displays humility by acknowledging that he is incapable of completing the task God has called him to by himself. Has there ever been a time when you realized you needed the help of others to accomplish a task or persevere through a difficult situation? Has there ever been a time when you felt like you could do it all on your own? That you neither needed nor wanted anyone's help, only to find that you were mistaken? Describe those times.

2. Recall a time when you benefitted from the counsel and wisdom of a spiritual leader. Can you remember a situation in which you needed to heed someone's wise counsel, but instead you rejected it? Or perhaps you had no one to counsel you at all?

3. Read James 5:13-15. Spiritual leaders are necessary when we find ourselves in midst of spiritual weariness (described as "sick" in v.14). What do these spiritual leaders do for the "weary" one? What are the benefits of having spiritual leaders?

4. Read James 5:16. How does James instruct believers, in the midst of community, to deal with sin? What is the purpose of addressing our sinfulness in this manner? What is the result?

5. Galatians 6:1-3 has some important things to say about how believers can help one another. How does Paul say we should help our brothers and sisters in Christ? What warnings does he give?

6. We see people who helped Moses in times of need, people who instructed Moses, and people who came along side Moses to accomplish tasks. This was Moses' community. Who makes up your community? Who is there for you? Who instructs you? Who helps you get things done? Write those people down. Do you have someone in each category? What are you for others? How do you plan to find these type of people for you in your next chapter?

The Bible provides numerous stories regarding Moses and how community played an important role in his life, as well as the task God had appointed him to. Even Moses, a great leader, couldn't do it alone. His brother Aaron, his father-in-law Jethro, and numerous others were there to strengthen, encourage, counsel, and help Moses. So it is in our lives. Even Christians who have great gifts and abilities need community in order to serve God.

Relationships

Friends, the Opposite Sex,
and Authority



1 SAMUEL 20 AND 24; 2 SAMUEL 11

Similar to our lives, David's life was filled with different relationships. David had both success and failure in his relationships. Let's look at three examples from David's life and learn from his relationships.

1. Read 1 Samuel 20:4,17,34,&42. What are some key characteristics of David and Jonathan's friendship you see in these verses?

2. Read Proverbs 12:26. Why is it important to be cautious in choosing friends? What are some ways to do that well after high school?

3. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7. David had the chance to kill King Saul. What did his motives for not killing Saul have to do with following authority?

4. Read Romans 13:1-2. God puts authorities in our lives for a reason. Why do you think He does that? What authorities will you possibly have after high school? How might God use those authorities in your life?

5. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5. David found himself tempted with the opposite sex, and he gave in. How did he find himself in that situation? How might have he avoided it in the first place?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. What do you learn about temptation in these verses? How might that apply to tempting situations with the opposite sex that you may find yourself in after high school?