Sticky Faith for Students in College: Fueling Desire for God and Making it Last

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Today’s Teens and Faith

My parents are probably the biggest influence out of anybody. -- Robyn

God is not the friend he was in high school. He is now more like the
grandparent in the home that I visit only on holidays or special
occasions. -- Ely

My parents are both very serving people, both in the church and
outside of the church. When I see that example, I see the kind of
Christlike service that they hold. -- Missy

Even though my mother was actually working at the church for a while
as the music minister... we didn’t talk about faith at home. Still don’t
talk about it at home. -- Anthony

You definitely have to be confident that you have made the decision to
follow Christ and have personal reasons. “Because my parents are
Christian” or “My youth group leader said so” simply don’t work
anymore. -- Tara
Topic 1 – Identity/Purpose

Continue to work on the question – “Who am I” and expand it also to “Whom Will I Love” and “Whom Will I Serve”
Identity Strategies
Not just social media friends, but real relationships.

Show up to stuff early in semester—I mean like the first night!

Think about who your people will be. Don’t just settle for the first crowd.

Know that loneliness is OK.
Topic 2 – Life is a Journey – so is Faith

Doubt is not the opposite of faith, it’s a part of it.

A good college ministry and a good church will be a harbor for your journey
Doubt and Faith Strategies

Don’t check out if you don’t have all the answers or don’t feel like your life is perfect

Embrace Christ as the center of your life and explore the questions.
Paper Boats or Seaworthy Ships

“Faith trajectories (along with other life trajectories) are often set in early adolescence. Sadly, most youth ministries are long on fun and fluff and short on listening and thoughtful engagement. The former produces a million paper boats; the latter produces a handful of seaworthy ships. Launching a million paper boats is an amazing spectacle on a clear summer day, but only a ship can weather storms and cross oceans.”

-Tim Clydesdale

(as quoted in *Sticky Faith* by Kara Power and Chap Clark, p. 92)
Topic 3 – Intergenerational

Church involvement going forward may look different for you as you move out of youth ministry contexts

Church is a diverse body of many generations
Relationships Strategies

Adopt a Family at College

Volunteer in kids or youth ministry

Attend events with older adults from time to time.
Topic 4 -- Service and Justice

You need to serve. Find a place to do it. Find a cause in the world that you care about and invest time.
Service and Justice Strategies

Mission and service is readily available at college.

Serve regularly too to learn more about yourself