



THE  
BEAR CREEK  
SCHOOL

# 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





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