

My Youth Group Exit Strategy

This is my personal plan to take charge of my faith by finding my next Christian community after I leave my youth group or small group.

➔ Step 1 – What’s after graduation for you?

My plans after high school are to:	<input type="checkbox"/> go to a vocational college. <input type="checkbox"/> go to a community college. <input type="checkbox"/> go to a community college, then transfer to a university. <input type="checkbox"/> join the circus and become a clown <input type="checkbox"/> go to a Bible College.	<input type="checkbox"/> go to a Christian College. <input type="checkbox"/> go to a Secular College <input type="checkbox"/> work, with no college plans. <input type="checkbox"/> work, then start college in 20____ <input type="checkbox"/> serve in the Military, then college. <input type="checkbox"/> win the Lottery and retire at 18.
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➔ Step 2 – What will you do for fellowship after graduation?

My fellowship plans for the fall:	<input type="checkbox"/> I’m staying in town and want to... <input type="checkbox"/> stay at my church and find a new group (JR high volunteer, college group, etc.). <input type="checkbox"/> visit other churches around town. <input type="checkbox"/> explore a ministry on my college campus. <input type="checkbox"/> stay in the youth group until I’m 25.	<input type="checkbox"/> I’ll be leaving town and will be... <input type="checkbox"/> looking for a college/base ministry. <input type="checkbox"/> looking for a new church. <input type="checkbox"/> looking for both. <input type="checkbox"/> looking for my soul mate.
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➔ Step 3 – What are you looking for in your next fellowship group?

What do I think about my current youth group or fellowship group?	What are some things I really like about my current Christian community?
	What are some things I wish were different and how could God use me to change them?
	If there are some things missing from my church, what role can I play to bring about those changes?
	Do these thoughts lead me to start looking for another church?
	If I do decide to look elsewhere, am I just running away from a problem I need to work through?

What is important to me in a fellowship group.	<p>It is important to me that the Christian community I commit to is doctrinally sound and believes that:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The Bible is God’s word, without error, to a fallen humanity. <input type="radio"/> Jesus is fully God and fully man. <input type="radio"/> Mankind is sinful and under a penalty of separation from God, ultimately ending in hell. <input type="radio"/> Salvation from sin’s penalty is by grace, through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ only. <input type="radio"/> Rock music is of the devil.</p>
	<p>I prefer to be in a small group Bible study that is made up of:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> men and women <input type="radio"/> only women <input type="radio"/> only men <input type="radio"/> highly intelligent chimpanzees <input type="radio"/> others from my dorm, team, fraternity, sorority or unit.</p>
	<p>The crowd size I like prefer in my Christian community is:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> over 100 <input type="radio"/> over 300 <input type="radio"/> under 2 <input type="radio"/> under 100 <input type="radio"/> under 50 <input type="radio"/> exactly 163</p>
	<p>The kinds of worship experience that really helps me connect with the Lord includes:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> a full band <input type="radio"/> a few guitars <input type="radio"/> one guitar <input type="radio"/> one piano <input type="radio"/> a guy with a tamborine <input type="radio"/> tons of singing <input type="radio"/> some singing <input type="radio"/> lots of hand motions <input type="radio"/> lifting hands <input type="radio"/> hands in pockets</p>
	<p>I want to be involved reaching out to the lost:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> on-campus <input type="radio"/> at my place of work <input type="radio"/> on base <input type="radio"/> in the community <input type="radio"/> on overseas missions <input type="radio"/> by sharing the Gospel <input type="radio"/> by helping the poor</p>
	<p>I want to grow in my faith and would really like to learn how to:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> share my faith <input type="radio"/> disciple others <input type="radio"/> lead a Bible study <input type="radio"/> study the Bible <input type="radio"/> shave without getting cut</p>
	<p>The kind of believers I like to be around are more:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> intellectual <input type="radio"/> mission-minded <input type="radio"/> emotionally needy <input type="radio"/> serious <input type="radio"/> fun, out-going <input type="radio"/> of the opposite sex <input type="radio"/> politically minded <input type="radio"/> ethnically diverse <input type="radio"/> artsy, hip and genuine</p>

(Keep this list. You will use it later to see how many of these features are present in the ministries you visit in the fall.)

➔ **Step 4 – The Fellowship Shopper’s Guide**

	When I go shopping I feel...	When I go shopping I feel...	When I go shopping I feel...
My attitude toward shopping.	<p><input type="radio"/> an adrenaline rush that carries away all my sadness.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> intoxicated by the smell of deals.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> a competitive spirit coming over me that will crush anyone who gets in my way.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> I have to. Food is important and I don’t have any.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> This will count as “quality time” with my girlfriend.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I have to. Underwear is important and I don’t have any.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> oppressed by the merchants of capitalism promising to fill my soul with their cheap, imported goods.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> like smacking the first smiley-faced salesperson to interrupt me with that phoney “I’m available if you have any questions” approach.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> AAAAAUUUUGGGGGHHHH!</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> I LOVE shopping.	<input type="checkbox"/> I TOLERATE shopping.	<input type="checkbox"/> I HATE shopping.

If you're going away to college and...you DO like shopping.

1. Go to your college's website.
2. Use the website's Search Tool (see *Suggested Searches for My Campus Website* below).
3. Follow the established links on the website (see *links to try* below).
4. Bookmark *The List* when you find it – you'll need it later.
5. Record the ministries you find on the *Ministries On My Campus* chart below.



Suggested Searches for My Campus Website

Search words/phrases to try:	<input type="checkbox"/> "campus ministries" <input type="checkbox"/> "Christian ministries"	<input type="checkbox"/> "religious life" <input type="checkbox"/> "student organizations"	<input type="checkbox"/> "spiritual life" <input type="checkbox"/> "student clubs"
Established links to try:	<input type="checkbox"/> "Student Services" <input type="checkbox"/> "Campus Life" <input type="checkbox"/> "Student Organizations"	<input type="checkbox"/> "Student Activities" <input type="checkbox"/> "Religious Life" <input type="checkbox"/> "Students>Current>Undergraduate"	<input type="checkbox"/> "Student Life" <input type="checkbox"/> "Student Groups"

Ministries On My Campus

Colleges I'm looking at:			
<p>1. Put an <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> beside the ministries liveabove.com lists on your campus.</p> <p>2. Put an <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> beside the ministries you found on <i>The List</i> from your college's website.</p> <p>3. Show this list of ministries you found on your campus to a few trusted adults. Put an * next to any they would recommend.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American Christian Fellowship <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Athletes In Action (<i>Campus Crusade</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Collegiate Ministries <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Bridges International (<i>Campus Crusade</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Ambassadors <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Crusade for Christ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Chi Alpha <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Union <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Coalition for Christian Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Destino (<i>Campus Crusade</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Epic (<i>Campus Crusade</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Great Commission Ministries <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Impact (<i>Campus Crusade</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IV) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> IV Graduate Christian Fellowship <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Korean Christian Fellowship <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Navigators <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Reformed University Fellowship <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Victory Campus Ministries <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Young Life-College* <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Your denomination <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p><small>*(www.younglife.org/YoungLifeCollege/ and select College Catalog)</small></p>

(Keep this list. You will use it later to see how many of these features are present in the ministries you visit in the fall.)

➔ **Step 5 – Learn the brand names.**

Who will I show this list to and get their recommendations? Parent Teacher Youth Pastor/Group Leader Friend

Name: _____

➔ **Step 6 – Narrow your options.**

My Campus Ministry Shopping List

<p>• <i>These are the campus ministries that were recommended to me by others, or that just sound interesting to me that I want to learn more about.</i></p>	<p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p>
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➔ **Step 7 – Make a list of questions.**

What are the Top 5 Questions you want to ask the campus ministries at your college? Pick from the list below or write your own list of questions.

- *Weekly Fellowship Meeting*
 - When is your first meeting of the fall term?
 - When and where are your meetings held?
 - How many students attend your weekly meeting?

- *Small Group Bible studies*
 - Do you have small group Bibles studies?
 - How can I get into a Bible study?
 - How can I lead a Bible study?

- *Outreaches*
 - Do you have evangelistic outreaches on campus?
 - Do you have service projects in the community?

- *Can you help me learn...*
 - How to share my faith in Christ.
 - How to study the Bible.
 - How to lead small group Bible studies.
 - How to disciple others.
 - How to help a new believer in Christ.

- *Retreats/Conferences*
 - Do you have weekend retreats for students?
 - Do you have regional or national student conferences?

- *Summer Missions Projects*
 - Do you have short-term summer missions opportunities?
 - How many summer missions do you have?
 - What countries are they in?

- *Churches near campus*
 - Where do you attend church?
 - What do you like about your church?
 - Do many other students attend your church?
 - What are others churches students attend?
 - Do you offer rides to local churches on Sundays?

- *Other:*
 - Does your group have a doctrinal statement posted anywhere?
 - What do you like about your fellowship group?
 - What do you dislike about your group?
 - What reputation does my dorm have? (if you know your dorm.)
 - Are any of your fellowship students living in my dorm?
 - Do you have many students in your ministry who are in fraternities or sororities on campus?

➔ **Step 8 – Start the inquisition.**

Go to your bookmarked web pages from liveabove.com and your college’s website. Find a contact person from each of the campus ministries on your *Campus Ministry Shopping List* (Step 6 above) and email them your Top 5 Questions above.

Campus Ministry	Contact	Email

➔ **Step 9 – Enjoy your summer.**

➔ **Step 10 – Select your Top 3 Campus Ministries to Visit**

As you hear back from students from each ministry, decide which groups were most responsive or helpful. Find out when and where their first meeting is on campus and schedule it into your calendar. Go back to enjoying your summer confident you know exactly where to start looking for your new Christian community in college. Attend all three groups your first week and start praying about where you think God wants you to get involved.

- *The Top 3 Campus Ministries I plan on visiting my first week on campus:*

① Ministry _____ My Contact _____

First Meeting – Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

② Ministry _____ My Contact _____

First Meeting – Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

③ Ministry _____ My Contact _____

First Meeting - Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

If you're going to college in town...

What are my options?	<i>I'm staying at my local church.</i>	<i>I'm looking for a change from my local church.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I'm staying at my current church and will find my next group by.... <input type="checkbox"/> Getting involved in the College Group <input type="checkbox"/> Joining a small group of singles or families <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the After Service Donut Team <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering with the Junior High ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering with the High School ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Hanging out in the back with other disgruntled congregants and complaining how the services are not geared for young people. <input type="checkbox"/> Going to services occasionally and seeing people at church once in a while. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to see what God is doing in other churches for people my age so I need to... <input type="checkbox"/> Talk with my youth pastor about my plan <input type="checkbox"/> Get his blessing that I'm not just "bailing" <input type="checkbox"/> Ask him for churches/ministries to consider trying <input type="checkbox"/> Ask friends who have visited other churches/ministries for their recommendations. <input type="checkbox"/> Visit some of those churches/ministries <input type="checkbox"/> If I find a different church/ministry I like, make a commitment to get into a small group Bible study. <input type="checkbox"/> If I don't find a church/ministry I like, talk with my youth pastor about finding my next place.

If you're going into the military...

What are my options?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify which base you are being assigned to. <input type="checkbox"/> Go to www.cadence.org/content/united-states and see if they have a ministry on your base. <input type="checkbox"/> Go to crumilitary.org and see if they have a ministry on your base. <input type="checkbox"/> Contact your base's Chaplain's office and talk with the Chaplain. <input type="checkbox"/> Tell him about your church background and that you are looking for a similar church near the base. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask him if the Chaplain's office offers small group Bible studies.
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