A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark dress and a long dark coat, is walking away from the camera on a wide brick-paved path. She is carrying a black folder or book under her left arm. In the background, there is a large, multi-story university building with many windows. The scene is set during the day with some shadows on the path. The entire image has a semi-transparent red overlay.

College Survival Guide



CROSSROADS
CHURCH




College is Awesome

- So much opportunity
- So many people to meet
- So much stuff to try
- You can reinvent yourself. Pursue whatever you want to pursue.
- Go for it! Meet new people, Try something new, Lead and take on responsibility, Travel, Stretch yourself

Something to think about:

Everyone share something you're excited about: new thing you're going to try, change, somewhere you want to go, something you want to be great at.





Choose Your Friends

(Don't Let Them Choose You)

- Meet as many people as possible. Introduce yourself. Go to clubs, they'll give you free food. Hang with someone who's great. Go with them and meet people.
- More than one circle: the beauty of college. More than one circle. Know people in multiple places.
- Find at least one solid friend who's a follower of Jesus—tell them who you want to be (accountability partner)

Something to think about:

What are you most concerned about in this area?



Go to Class & Study

- Actually show up
- Make a calendar
- Meet your teacher
- Get your support staff: teacher's aide, tutor, student life center, smart kid, whatever

Something to think about:

How well do you want to do in college? What's the most important thing for you to do for your GPA and future career?






Find a Church

- Don't take a break. It will turn into a year
- Ask around and visit a few churches
- What campus ministries are available?
- Where can you find community?
- Where can you grow spiritually?
- Where can you serve?
- Then you're going to pick one and plant there

Something to think about:

What can your current church community do help you figure out where to go to church?



Establish Your Routine

- Don't commit to more than 2 things. So much to be involved in. Take it easy. Margin is where relationships thrive, health is established, and fun happens.
- Put the big rocks in first: God, friends, church/serving, school, sports, health (You choose your priorities)
- Discipline – I decide when I do what I do and how long I will do it. Not my friends.
Not a Party.

Not my desires or my roommate. Talent plus discipline equals greatness. It isn't enough to be talented alone.





Don't Date

- Too much going on during your 1st semester to tie your life to someone else
- You have plenty of time- there's no rush!
- Dating in the first 6 months is like grabbing onto a life raft. It may feel safe. And feel like it helps, but a boat would be nicer.
- Dating right away can become a distraction from all that college has to offer

Party Smart

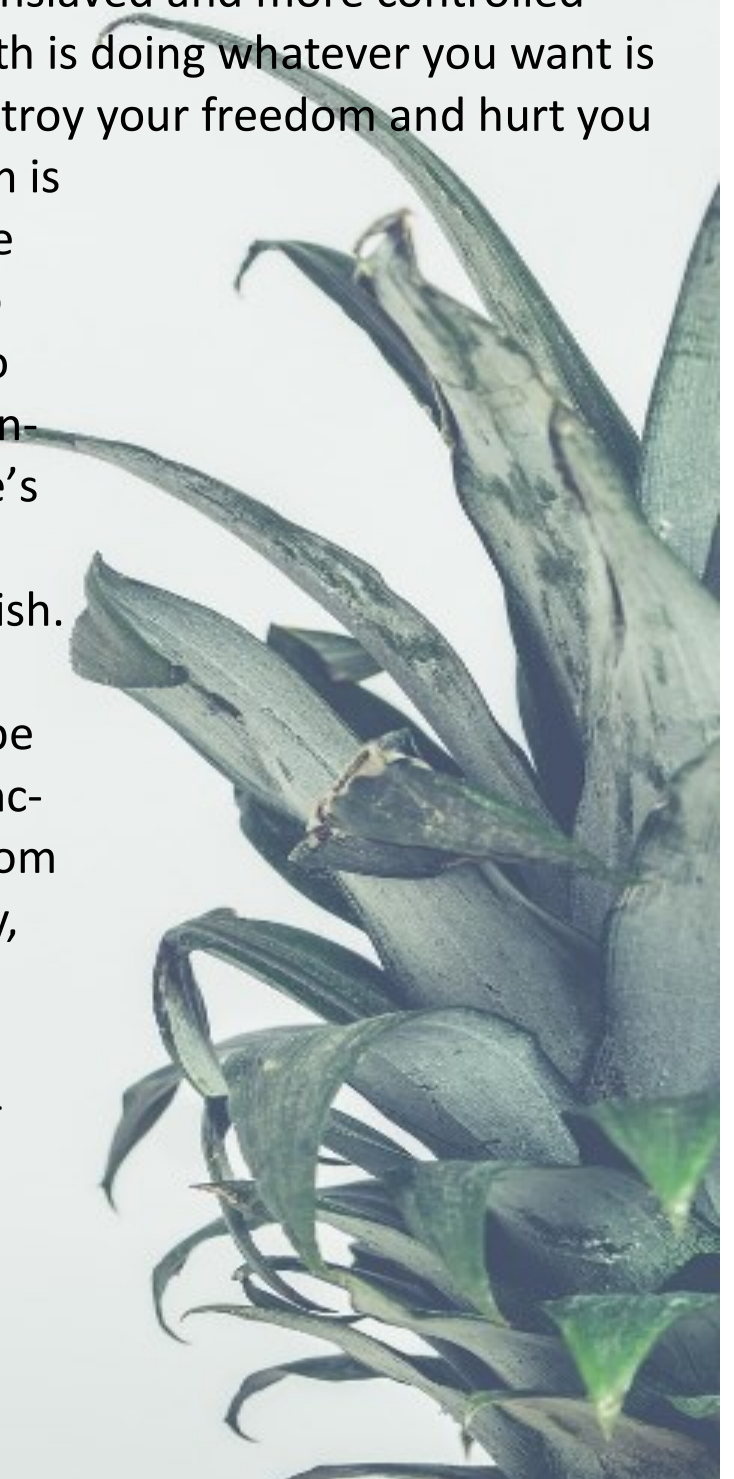
- Don't be stupid at parties, but you don't have to be afraid of them either
- Go ahead and establish now who you are at a party and what you do with your selfish and overindulgent desires. You are in control of these decisions- no one else. Make up your mind from the beginning, it's easier than changing your behaviors later.
- Protect what's worth protecting: integrity and character, relationships, grades, your relationship with God

Something to think about:

How are you going to party in college? What would help you?

Enjoy Don't Abuse Your Freedom

- You can do anything. And that means anything. Freedom equals doing whatever you want. You can do plenty of things with your freedom that make you more enslaved and more controlled than you've ever been. The truth is doing whatever you want is one of the quickest ways to destroy your freedom and hurt you and those around you. Freedom is as much about what you're free from as it is what you're free to do. God wants you to be free to be who he created you to be, enjoy this world and the things he's given you, to go and do and dream and create and accomplish. He wants you to be free TO do that. But he also wants you to be free from sin and its consequences. God wants you to be free from regret, and waste, and stupidity, and loss, brokenness, and ruin, and insignificance.
- So enjoy don't abuse your freedom. Be actually free!



...Continued

- You'll be more tempted than you ever have been: Alcohol, drugs, sex, and an opportunity to be a completely different person. Easier than it's ever been, more people doing it, easier to get away with it, more reasons that sound great. More parties that seem so epic. Watch out. Don't be stupid. Don't be deceived.
- You have freedom because you're adults. Handle it like adults. Freedom isn't an escape from responsibility it's a shifting of responsibility. What are you going to do with it? Other's can't decide for you.

Something to think about:

What do you want to do / not do with your freedom?





Don't Forget...

- Everyone at home- friends, family, your support systems!
- About staying healthy- physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually
- Be wise, not just smart
- College passes by quickly- make it count, enjoy it, experience, learn, and grow!

You have people who care about you and are there for you.

We love you!

