

Launching Out High School Seniors: Night to Remember

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Night to Remember is an annual event that happens toward the end of the Student Ministry school year. On that night we remember God’s faithfulness to us in the Student Ministry as we are extolled to do in Psalm 105:5, which states, “Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.” We honor God as we remember and honor our volunteers and our graduating high school seniors.

As we honor high school seniors, we are also marking a major milestone in their lives. We encourage them collectively to continue on their faith journey as many students prepare to leave home for the first time. On that night we invite each senior to come forward to be recognized by the community, and encourage each student to take steps to continue in their growing discipleship. There are three main encouragements to the seniors for this milestone:

- 1) worship regularly at a church that proclaims Jesus as Lord
- 2) find an older Christian of the same sex to be a mentor
- 3) become part of a small group Christian community.

In Philippians 3:15, Paul encourages those who are “mature” in their faith. This implies a maturation process which we all go through, and toward which our seniors are taking the next natural and exciting step in their own faith growth.

The evening culminates with the seniors surrounded by parents, friends, and leaders who lay hands on them and pray for them. It is a time when parents pray for their own child as well as all those who are taking the next step from high school into the life that lies ahead for them.

Night to Remember is more than just a celebration at the end of the school year. It is a time that seniors, once beyond high school, can look back on and remember the prayer, the encouragement, and the love from the community of Third. We pray that this will encourage them to continue on in their growing faith journey.

Resources:

The Blessing by Gary Smalley and John Trent (Thomas Nelson)

College Bound: What Christian Parents Need to Know About Helping their Kids

Choose a College by Thomas Shaw (Moody Publishers)

Opie Doesn't Live Here Anymore: Where Faith, Family, and Culture Collide by
Walt Mueller (Standard)

The Contemporary Christian: Applying God's Word to Today's World by John
Stott (IVP Books)

The Ever-Loving Truth: Can Faith Thrive in a Post-Christian Culture? by Voddie
Baucham, Jr. (B&H Publishing Group)

How to Stay Christian in College by J. Budziszewski (NavPress)

Make College Count: A Faithful Guide to Life and Learning by Derek Melleby
(Baker Books)

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