

# Grad Prep Session #1 Empowering Friendships

By Ken McCoy • JumpStart Ministries • Escondido, California • kennymac@mac.com

## Theme

Graduates, for the first time in their lives, will have the opportunity to choose their social networks. Previously, friendships were created for them – they just seemed to happen naturally around the kids they grew up with, played sports with, sat with in homeroom, etc. Now students need to learn the skill of searching for, finding, pursuing, and building quality relationships. This video is part of the “CollegeReady” materials. You can find more great resources like this one at [collegeready.com](http://collegeready.com).

## Objective

Grads will learn about the opportunity of choosing with whom to build close relationships, and will understand the value of empowering friendships.

## Note

This session is built around a six-minute video from the **ConGRADulations! Class of 2012** “Media Disc.” Even though this session is designed for high school seniors, you can easily do this with your entire group – especially since it uses a cool video. The video clip incorporates an intro voiceover segment that explains the Empowering Friendships theme. If you have any questions, call **800-725-3300** or email [jerryddavis@interlinc-online.com](mailto:jerryddavis@interlinc-online.com).

## Warm Up

Start a discussion about choices in life by talking about the things that were chosen for you by your folks when you were younger, but now you have the opportunity to choose for yourself. Use a chalkboard or a large sheet of paper to list similar choices that students can add. (Example: clothes, food, movies, music, time to go to bed, etc.)

## Transition

After creating the list, discuss:

- Now that you’re away from home, how much freedom of choice do you have?
- Is freedom of choice a privilege that is earned or a right that comes by being on your own? What is the difference and why did you pick the statement you did?

## The Video

Hand out the Student Guides and explain that while we did get to choose our friends, they were chosen out of those we just happened to be around. Now, as we leave high school for college, the military, or the workforce, we have a completely different opportunity and responsibility to choose our friends. Show the video.

## Transition

- Can you remember your best friend from 2nd grade? Are you still friends with that person?
- John Bryson on the video said, “Life is a team sport. Your circle of friends will determine, to a large extent, your future pathways.” How have you seen the truth of that statement?
- How would you describe what “Relational Passivity” is?
- What makes someone your friend?
- What kind of friend would you say you are?

## Bible Study

Use these Scriptures and discussion questions to guide you through the Bible Study time of your meeting. Have the students look up the verses and then write the answers to the questions before you discuss the Scriptures as a group.

### **1 Corinthians 15:33 – We can only live life at a high level, and stay there, with a band of good brothers and sisters around us.**

- Restate this verse by making it a positive statement instead of the negative one.
- Why do you think people of “good” character are sometimes attracted to “bad” characters?
- What qualities would you notice in someone of “good” character?

### **Proverbs 17:17; 18:24 – The kinds of friendships we build can either be shallow or authentic.**

- Do you have a friend that is closer than family? What does that kind of relationship feel like?
- What is the difference between a shallow friendship and an authentic friendship?
- Why is the wise person cautious in friendships? What does the Scripture say will happen if you are unwise?

### **Proverbs 12:26; 27:6 – We need “empowering” friendships that build us up.**

- Rewrite 12:26 in your own words.
- What are “wounds” from a friend?
- How can you know if you can trust the hurt you experience from a friend?

## Wrap Up

Discuss:

- What’s the common theme from all the Bible passages about friendship?
- How are you allowing those close to you to really know you?
- What steps can you take to move your friendships from shallow to real and create trust and accountability?

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Restate this verse by making it a positive statement instead of the negative one.

Why do you think people of “good” character are sometimes attracted to “bad” characters?

What qualities would you notice in someone of “good” character?



**Proverbs 12:26; 27:6 – We need “empowering” friendships that build us up.**

Rewrite 12:26 in your own words.

**Proverbs 17:17; 18:24 – The kinds of friendships we build can either be shallow or authentic.**

Do you have a friend that is closer than family? What does that kind of relationship feel like?

What are “wounds” from a friend?

What is the difference between a shallow friendship and an authentic friendship?

How can you know if you can trust the hurt you experience from a friend?

Why is the wise person cautious in friendships?

What does the Scripture say will happen if you are unwise?



# Grad Prep Session #2

## Finances: Stewardship

By Ken McCoy • JumpStart Ministries • Escondido, California • kennymac@mac.com

### Theme

With all the attention that “money” gets in the news (government bail-outs, stimulus funds, jobs, bills, etc.) you would think that today’s grads would have a good handle on handling money. Unfortunately, grads are as materialistic as ever – maybe more so. Once they get out of high school they will be bombarded with significant money decisions to make: school loans, easy-to-obtain credit cards, entertainment, gadgets, insurance, clothes – and on and on. Grads must learn solid principles for handling money. The decisions they make today will have a huge influence on their financial future.

### Objective

Grads will learn about wise money practices.

### Note

This session is built around a video from the **ConGRADulations! Class of 2012** “Media Disc.” The video is an excerpt from a powerful student Bible study series called “Next Chapter” that offers fourteen weeks of Scripture study, videos, application, resources, and ways to connect with others who will help make the transition out of high school a success. Check out “Next Chapter” resources at [nextchapter.bgco.org](http://nextchapter.bgco.org). Any questions call **800-725-3300** or email [jerryddavis@interlinc-online.com](mailto:jerryddavis@interlinc-online.com).

### Warm Up

Hand out 3x5 cards and pencils. Have the students imagine that they have just been given \$1000. Instruct the students to list on their cards how they would use that windfall – be sure that they list how every dollar would be used. Inform the group that you’ll be reading the cards aloud, so they shouldn’t write anything silly or embarrassing. When they have finished writing, tell them to put their names at the top of their cards. Collect the cards, then read them to the group. Have the kids try to guess who wrote each card.

### Transition

Discuss:

- What did you notice about the way people want to spend their money?
- How would you describe the spending habits of people your age?
- What can you learn about a person by observing his or her spending habits?

Explain that spending isn’t a problem, but we can spend it wisely or foolishly. God’s advice about this area of life is important to learn now, before foolish decisions cause big problems.

### The Video

Hand out the Student Guides and show the video to your group. This clip is from the “Next Chapter” Bible study series.

### Transition

Discuss:

- What message did you get from the video?
- How would you respond to a person who says, “I own my stuff and can do what I want with it”?
- Define “stewardship” in your own words.

### Bible Study

God has a LOT to say about handling money – too much to cover in this session, unfortunately. So, focus on these three issues:

#### Love God, Not Money (Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:9-10)

- What is incompatible between pursuing money and pursuing God?
- Notice that money isn’t the root of all kindWho or what causes ruin, destruction, and grief?

#### Have a Plan for Your Money (Proverbs 21:5, 20; 27:12)

- Describe how you keep track of what you spend your money on.
- What are the differences between a “wise sensible” person and a “foolish simpleton”?
- How can you strengthen the wise side of your money management and minimize the foolish side?

#### Avoid Borrowing Money (Deuteronomy 28:44; Proverbs 22:7; Romans 13:8)

- Do you spend more money than you have? If so, how do you cover the difference?
- How will you handle the offers of easy-to-get credit cards?
- What happens to the person who borrows money?

### Wrap Up

Explain that how a person handles his or her money is an indication of his or her character – wise, smart, and disciplined or foolish, simple, and spontaneous. Remind students that Jesus said, *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Matthew 6:19-21) Although money is necessary, it is not how we determine value. We love God, we plan for our spending and saving, and we live within our means.



## Bible Study

Love \_\_\_\_\_, Not \_\_\_\_\_  
**Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:9-10**

- What is incompatible between pursuing money and pursuing God?
- Notice that money isn't the root of all kinds of evil. What is that root?
- Who or what causes ruin, destruction, and grief?

Have a \_\_\_\_\_ for Your \_\_\_\_\_  
**Proverbs 21:5, 20; 27:12**

- Describe how you keep track of what you spend your money on.
- What are the differences between a "wise sensible" person and a "foolish simpleton"?
- How can you strengthen the wise side of your money management and minimize the foolish side?

Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ Money  
**Deuteronomy 28:44; Proverbs 22:7; Romans 13:8**

- Do you spend more money than you have? If so, how do you cover the difference?
- How will you handle the offers of easy-to-get credit cards that you'll receive?
- What happens to the person who borrows money?

## The Video

- What message did you get from the video?
- How would you respond to a person who says, "I own my stuff and can do what I want with it"?
- Define "stewardship" in your own words.

Grad Prep Session #2

Finances: Stewardship

# Grad Prep Session #3 Worldview

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## Theme

"Worldview" is a comprehensive conception of the universe and human-kind's relation to it. A Biblical worldview focuses on the big, basic issues: the existence of God, the nature of reality, the existence and knowability of absolute truth, and the moral and ethical implications of these and other primary questions. The "worldview" that incoming freshmen will encounter in college will be, in many ways, at cross purposes with a Christian worldview. The video is an excerpt from a powerful student Bible study series called "Next Chapter" that offers fourteen weeks of Scripture study, videos, application, resources, and ways to connect with others who will help make the transition out of high school a success. Check out "Next Chapter" resources at [nextchapter.bgco.org](http://nextchapter.bgco.org).

## Objective

Grads will be motivated to be prepared to handle the opposition they will experience to their Christian faith.

## Note

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## Warm Up

**Agree/Disagree** – Gather the group into the middle of the room. Explain that you will read a statement. Those who agree with the statement move to the right side of the room, and those who disagree with it move to the left. There is no middle ground. When you have read a statement and the students have chosen a side, call on a few students from each side to explain their thinking. Use provocative statements such as:

- Every word of the Bible is literally true.
- You can't prove the existence of God.
- What a person believes is truth – for that person.
- Faith means believing in something you can't see.
- Evolution is incompatible with Christianity.
- Etc.

## Transition

Discuss how truth is not relative, and yet we live in a society that has a vastly different worldview from that of believers. That worldview will be very prominent and persuasive in college.

## The Video

Show the video.

## Transition

Discuss the students' reactions to the video. Have they ever experienced anything like what the video portrayed? If so, let them tell their stories.

## Bible Study

Hand out the Student Guides. Use this outline to teach the Bible Study, and encourage the students to take notes. Encourage group discussion around the questions under each point.

### Christianity doesn't make sense – (1 Corinthians 1:27)

God's way of thinking is not the world's way.

- What are some "foolish things of the world" that God uses?
- What are some "weak things of the world" that God uses?
- Why does Christianity pose such a threat to the contemporary way of thinking?

### Christianity does make sense – (1 Corinthians 15:32)

Jesus' resurrection is proof enough.

- How is your life more than what you experience here on earth?
- How does Jesus' resurrection prove the viability of Christianity?
- Put Paul's way of stating today's worldview into your own words.

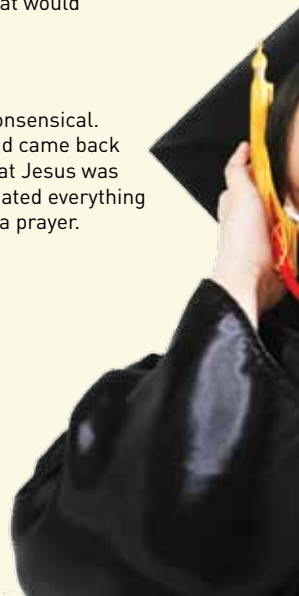
### Christianity won't make sense unless you know your stuff –

**(2 Timothy 4:2)** – The reason God has us here is to share the good news, to correct false thinking, to rebuke those who've crossed the line, and to encourage each other to hang tough.

- What can you do to prepare yourself in your first year on campus?
- Why is "correcting" someone considered wrong today?
- Have you ever been rebuked? Want to tell that story?
- Note the last two words: "careful instruction." What would you need to be able to do what this verse says?

## Wrap Up

Explain that having faith in God is reasonable, not nonsensical. Jesus is a historical figure, who died, was buried, and came back to life. No one can explain the empty tomb except that Jesus was resurrected. Since He did come back to life, He validated everything He did and said, and proved that He is God. Close in a prayer.





**Christianity** \_\_\_\_\_

**make** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 1:27**

What are some "foolish things of the world" that God uses?

What are some "weak things of the world" that God uses?

Why does Christianity pose such a threat to the contemporary way of thinking?

**Christianity** \_\_\_\_\_

**make** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 15:32**

How is your life more than what you experience here on earth?

How does Jesus' resurrection prove the viability of Christianity?

Put Paul's way of stating today's worldview into your own words.

**Christianity** \_\_\_\_\_ **make**

\_\_\_\_\_ **unless you** \_\_\_\_\_

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**2 Timothy 4:2**

What can you do to prepare yourself in your first year on campus?

Why is "correcting" someone considered wrong today?

Have you ever been rebuked? Want to tell that story?

Note the last two words: "careful instruction." What would you need in order to do what this verse says?



# Grad Prep Session #3 Worldview