

**Helping Youth Transition to**  
**Campus Life**



***March 19, 2015***  
***Pastor Ray Lee***

## Pastor Ray Lee

**Presently serving as the Lead Pastor for Junior High Ministry at Richmond Hill Christian Community Church. Received his Masters of Theological Studies degree and Certificate of Christian Counseling from Tyndale Seminary in 2012 and has served as a youth leader, counselor / coach, teacher for English youth fellowships & ministries for over 20 years.**

**As a Canadian-born Chinese (CBC), Pastor Ray has a passion for reaching youth specifically in the areas of teaching & shepherding them to become followers of Christ to impact our world.**

## 1. Why are you here?

- **University/College: dream or nightmare?**
- **Adolescent years: rapid and intense growth; physically, mentally, and emotionally;**
- **Students: Seeking independence & identity.**
- **Parents: to guide and support our children**

**Workshop to help you better understand what is happening to your child physically, cognitively and socially, so you will be able to help them successfully navigate these developmental milestones and prepare them for a successful transition from high school to university/college and campus life.”**

**GOD Matters!**

**NOW**



**GOAL:**  
**ENTER**  
**CAMPUS &**  
**GRADUATE**  
**WELL**

**Watch Video1**

- 1. Remember your child growing up. They will soon **GRADUATE**. How well do you really know them at this age of development?**
  
- 2. Is your child presently in Grade 7-8; 9-10; 11-12?**
  
- 3. Think, write down and describe some key characteristics of your child:**
  - i. Physically ...**
  - ii. Intellectually...**
  - iii. Socially ...**
  - iv. Emotionally...**
  - v. Spiritually ...**

## **Characteristics of Jr. High Students:**

### **PHYSICAL**

- 1. ONSET OF PUBERTY**
- 2. GROWTH SPURTS**
- 3. ONSET OF ACNE**
- 4. MORE CONSCIENTIOUS ABOUT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**
- 5. MUSCLE DEVELOPMENT**
- 6. INCREASED ATTRACTION TO OPPOSITE SEX**
- 7. INCREASED PHYSICAL COORDINATION**

### **INTELLECTUAL**

- 1. TRANSITION FROM CONCRETE TO ABSTRACT THINKING**
- 2. ABILITY TO QUESTION WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TAUGHT**
- 3. IDEALISTIC**
- 4. PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS ARE DEVELOPING**

**How did you behave, act, struggle ... during these years?**

### **SOCIAL**

- 1. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FRIENDS**
- 2. STRONGER DESIRE TO BE 'POPULAR'**
- 3. PEER INFLUENCE INCREASES**
- 4. DESIRE TO BE MORE INDEPENDANT**

### **EMOTIONAL**

- 1. MORE EXPRESSIVE**
- 2. EXPERIENCE LOTS OF EMOTIONAL 'UPS AND DOWNS'**
- 3. EMOTIONS MAY BE MORE EXTREME**
- 4. STRUGGLE WITH SELF-ESTEEM**

### **SPIRITUAL**

- 1. BEGIN TO QUESTION FAITH OF THEIR CHILDHOOD**
- 2. NO LONGER ACCEPT 'BECAUSE THE BIBLE SAYS SO' AS AN ANSWER**
- 3. CAN BEGIN TO APPLY SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES TO DAILY LIFE**
- 4. LOOKING FOR WAYS TO 'EXPERIENCE' WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TAUGHT**

# **Characteristics of High School Students:**

## **PHYSICAL**

- 1. THEY ARE OUTGROWING THEIR AWKWARDNESS**
- 2. THEY HAVE AN ATTRACTIVE, GROWN-UP APPEARANCE**
- 3. THEIR APPETITE IS USUALLY GOOD**
- 4. THEIR PHYSICAL HABITS ARE BEING FORMED**
- 5. THEY ARE USUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SEXUAL NATURE**

## **MENTAL**

- 1. THEIR REASONING POWERS ARE REACHING NEW HEIGHTS**
- 2. THEY LIKE ARGUMENT AND DEBATE**
- 3. THEY ARE VERY CREATIVE AND IDEALISTIC**
- 4. THEIR JUDGEMENT IS IMPROVING**
- 5. THEIR IMAGINATION IS USUALLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF REASON AND JUDGEMENT**
- 6. THEY ARE USUALLY SUBJECT TO SUGGESTION**

## **SOCIAL**

- 1. THEY BELONG TO A CLIQUE OR EXCLUSIVE SOCIAL GROUP**
- 2. THEY ARE ATTRACTED TO THE OPPOSITE SEX - ALTHOUGH NOT ALWAYS**
- 3. THEY ARE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN OUTWARD APPEARANCES**
- 4. THEY WANT SOCIAL APPROVAL**

## **EMOTIONAL**

- 1. THEIR EMOTIONS ARE STILL INTENSE**
- 2. THEY MAY NOW BE MOODY**
- 3. THEY WANT SECURITY**
- 4. THEY LIKE EXCITEMENT**

## **SPIRITUAL**

- 1. THEIR RELIGION IS PERSONAL**
- 2. THEIR RELIGION IS ONE OF ACTION**
- 3. THEIR RELIGION IS EMOTIONAL**
- 4. THEIR DOUBTS MAY INCREASE ABOUT THEIR FAITH**

**Video 2 ... Congrats!**



**What are some of the**

**differences and expectations**

**That our students need to be aware**

**of as they transition from**

**High School --> University and College?**



# **Personal Freedom** in High School vs. University / College

**High school is mandatory and free**

**Your time is usually structured by others.**

**You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities.**

**You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.**

**You manage your own time.**

**You must decide whether to participate in extracurricular activities.**

**You will be faced with a large number of moral and ethical decisions you have not had to face previously. You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities.**

**Guiding principle: You will usually be told what your responsibilities are and corrected if your behaviour is out of line.**

**Guiding principle: You're old enough to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.**

# High School Teachers vs. University Instructors

**Teachers** have been trained in teaching methods to assist in imparting knowledge to students.

**Teachers** provide you with information you missed when you were absent.

**Teachers** present material to help you understand the material in the textbook.

**Teachers** often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.

**Teachers** impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.

**Teachers** often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.

**Instructors** may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When **Instructors** write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.

**Instructors** expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.

**Instructors** expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.

## **Studying in High School vs. University / College**

**You may study outside of class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week, and this may be mostly last-minute test preparation.**

**You often need to read or hear presentations only once to learn all you need to learn about them.**

**You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.**

**Guiding principle: You will usually be told in class what you needed to learn from assigned readings.**

**You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.**

**You need to review class notes and text material regularly.**

**You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.**

**Guiding principle: It's up to you to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments proceed from the assumption that you've already done so.**

# Tests in High School vs. University / College

**Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.**

**Makeup tests are often available.**

**Teachers frequently rearrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events.**

**Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.**

**Mastery is usually seen as the ability to reproduce what you were taught in the form in which it was presented to you, or to solve the kinds of problems you were shown how to solve.**

**Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them.**

**Instructors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.**

**Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.**

**Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to real situations or to solve new kinds of problems.**

# **Grades in High School vs. University**

**Grades are given for most assigned work.**

**Consistently good homework grades may help raise your overall grade when test grades are low.**

**Extra credit projects are often available to help you raise your grade.**

**Initial test grades, especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.**

**Guiding principle: "Effort counts." Courses are usually structured to reward a "good-faith effort."**

**Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.**

**Grades on tests and major projects usually provide most of the course grade.**

**Extra credit projects cannot, generally speaking, be used to raise a grade in a University / College course.**

**Watch out for your first test. These are usually "wake-up calls" to let you know what is expected -- but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade.**

**Guiding principle: "Results count." Though "good-faith effort" is important it will not substitute for results.**

**It is important to have a better understanding and appreciation of the **differences & expectations** between High School & University / College in these areas:**

- 1. Personal Freedom**
- 2. Teachers vs. Professors/Instructors**
- 3. Studying**
- 4. Tests**
- 5. Grades**

**STUDENTS NEED THIS UNDERSTANDING  
TO TRANSITION WELL**

**WATCH VIDEO 3**

**University & College is an investment of time and money. How can **YOUR CHILD** be a successful campus student? Start to:**

- 1. Intentionally Develop A Plan Together**
- 2. Identify Goals & Priorities**
- 3. Prepare Academically & Financially**
- 4. Manage Their Time**
- 5. Practice Good Money Management**
- 6. Ask For Advice**
- 7. Tackle & Resolve Problems, Challenges**
- 8. Finally ... Enjoy Campus Life**

**Persistence in Post-Secondary Education in Canada reported that students and professors **argued** that high schools don't adequately prepare teens for their first year of university. **AGREE?****

- **17% of students never complete their studies.**
- **14 % of first-year students drop out**
- **55 % of university professors and librarians said first-year students were less prepared than students just three years earlier.**
- **Decline in students' writing and numeric skills, an over-reliance on Internet resources, lower maturity levels, and an expectation of success without the requisite effort.**



## **CONSIDER THESE KEYS FOR STUDENTS:**

1. **Take** challenging honours/academic classes ie. **Pre-International Baccalaureate / Pre-Advanced Placement** programs and **balance extracurricular activities**
2. **Create** & plan a study routine at home. Read a lot to strengthen your verbal, writing and critical thinking abilities.
3. **Meet** with school guidance counselor. Explore career options.
4. **Do** volunteer work. Start a savings program.
5. **How prepared** are you? Ummm .... **VIDEO 4.**

# How To Prepare for University/College?

## **Elementary and Middle School**

***If you're starting to think about your post-secondary options***, many universities offer programs for elementary and middle school students during March Break and Summer.

For example: At Queen's, the **Seeds (Gr. 7&8) program** gives younger students a chance to experience a subject at the university.

9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## **Grade 9 & 10: Start Thinking About Programs**

**Students need to think about the kinds of subjects they enjoy and take the opportunity to explore different areas.**

**Many University programs require specific high school *prerequisite* courses. Be sure you have a general idea of what you need to take in Grades 11 and 12 to get into their program.**

**For example: At Queen's, the [E.M.C. program](#) (Enrichment Mini-Course) gives high school students an opportunity to experience a subject at the university.**

## **Grade 11: Individual University Research**

**Choosing the right university can be based on any number of criteria from size to academic reputation to campus spirit and sense of community.**

**Start by visiting University websites, talking to the guidance counsellor, researching and speaking to University admissions reps who visit or the general college or university fair, such as the [Ontario University Fair](#) (Sept. 25-27 @ Toronto Convention Center).**



# Prepare for University/College

## **Grade 12: Finalize Choices And Apply**

**Visit the campuses you are applying. Applications are normally due just after the winter break.**

**Universities will look at marks from Grade 11 and 12 as well as other supplementary information such as a personal statement of experience.**

**Your high school will submit your grades, but you're responsible for submitting any supplementary documentation on time.**

**Offers of admission are made in the spring, usually from March until May.**

# Timeline for University/College

- **May 28:** The latest date an Ontario university to respond to applicants
- **June 1:** The earliest date students to respond to an Ontario university offer of admission
- **July 16:** Target date for OUAC to transmit final grades to universities.
- **Early June to August:** The [Admission Information Service \(AIS\)](#) can tell which Ontario universities still have spots available in first-year undergraduate programs.
- **September** - Pack your bags and get ready to move in!

**WATCH VIDEO 5**

## Hemorrhaging Faith: Why and When Young Canadians are Leaving, Staying and Returning to the Church (2011).

- Only **33%** young people, who attended church as children, still do so today.
- **40%** young adults who attended church at least weekly as a child still do so today.
- All in all, about **66%** young adults are leaving the church.
- Other stats tell us that **60-90%** of graduating high school youth leave the church and don't return.

## 1. Parents

**How parents practice their faith has a huge impact on their children. This faith must not only be taught, but modeled. When children can see that their *parents' faith is genuine*, they themselves are more likely to stay engaged.**

***Discipleship* begins at home. Continue to live out your faith and model it for your children. Invite open dialogue and be vulnerable and honest about struggles in life.**

**Through the high school years, become more of a *Coach* to your child, allow them to make decisions and make mistakes & learn ... before they head off for campus.**

**Parents, do you walk the talk?**

**Ummmm ... FEARS & STRUGGLES?**



## 2. Experience of God

Many Youth & young adults want ***tangible evidence*** of the presence of God. They want to be able to see it, hear it, touch it, etc. For many, when prayers go unanswered, they unfortunately resort to one of two conclusions either:

- 1) God exists but does not care for them*** OR
- 2) God does not exist.***

**We need to teach our youth and young children that God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8) and create an environment where the faith community helps them to ***recognize*** the God events in their lives.**

## **3. Teachings and Beliefs**

**Youth & young adults are willing to *dig deeper* and find the substance of their faith. Many would rather take risks than be comfortable and stagnant.**

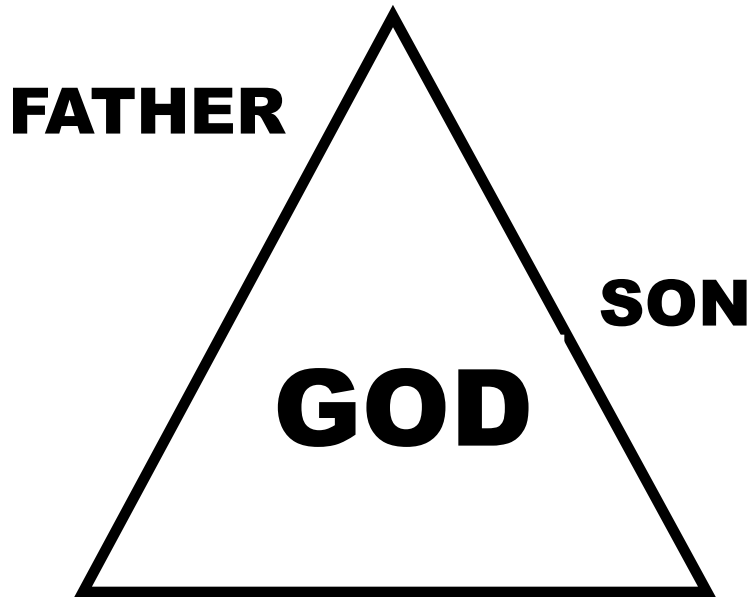
**The church and parents must provide a place where *questions are welcomed* and tough topics are dealt with in an honest and vulnerable way.**

**While many young adults are leaving the church today, there are many who have overcome the hardship through discipleship and loving care in an *authentic community* where they can belong and be a disciple of Christ to live and make a difference in the world.**

## CRUCIAL QUESTIONS :

- 1. Why Am I Going To University / College?**  
(*For me or for God?*)
- 2. Who Am I?**  
(*The person in the mirror or a child of God?*)
- 3. What Do I Believe?**  
(*Lens of the world or lens of the Bible?*)
- 4. With Whom Will I Surround Myself?**  
(*Christian community is crucial to our beliefs / behaviors*)

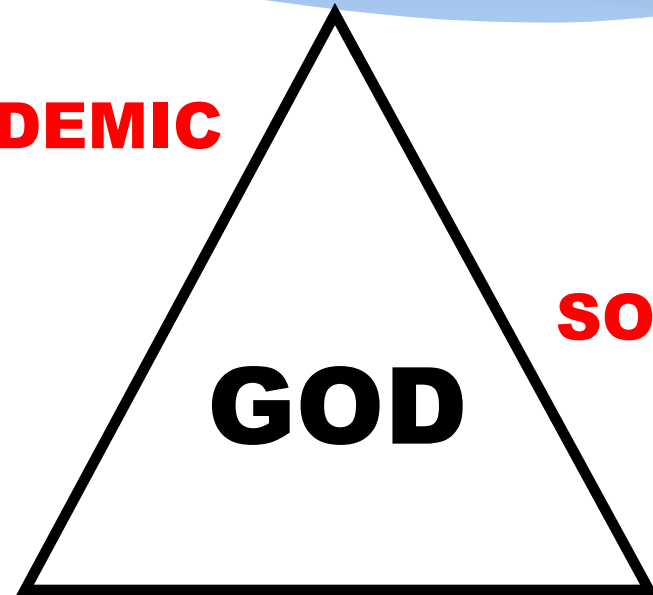
# GOD Matters!



**HOLY  
SPIRIT**

**SPIRITUAL**  
**TRINITY**

**ACADEMIC**



**PERSONAL**

**CAMPUS**  
**TRINITY**

**GOD Matters!**

**NOW**



**GOAL:**  
**ENTER CAMPUS  
& GRADUATE  
WELL**

**NOT EITHER / OR  
BUT BOTH /AND**

**+**

**NOW**



**GOAL:**  
**MATURE CHILD  
OF GOD**

**WATCH VIDEO 8, 9**

**Frosh Connexion: [July 28 @ NYCB @ 5 pm].**

**Frosh Connexion (FX) is an annual event hosted by AFC and Asian/Chinese Christian Fellowships across Ontario. FX allows first year students from GTA churches to meet other first years in one location as well as older brothers and sisters from the respective Universities / Colleges that they are going to in the coming September.**

**Connect with the Asian/Chinese Christian Fellowships available at their campus / school. It's a chance to get to know the people and to get information about the university, the lifestyle and, most importantly, to connect with a community of Christians to journey together ... before the start of the school year.**

## LAST THOUGHTS ....

**We Need To Remember Not To Seek Perfection As The Standard In Our Own Lives Or The Lives Of Our Children.**

**The Gospel Says We Are All Wrong, Sinful And Messed Up But We Are All Dearly Loved By God.**

**In Christ, We Are All In Process And Often A Painful Process Of Being Changed From The Inside Out.**

**The Campus Journey Is Part Of That Process For Your Son Or Daughter!**

## Proverbs 3:5-6

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.**

## Numbers 6:24-26

**The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.**



## **1) The First Year: How to Support a Student**

**<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/first-year-how-support-student>**

## **2) Preparing for the Post-Secondary Environment (UT)**

**<http://snow.idrc.ocad.ca/node/231>**

## **3) Ontario Prospects Career Planning Guide For Students In Grades 7 To 12**

**<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/prospects/>**

## **1) Fuller Youth Institute**

**<http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/> **and**  
**<http://stickyfaith.org/about-sticky-faith>****

## **2) The College Transition Institute (CTI)**

**<http://www.collegetransitioninitiative.com/>**

## **3) Leadership U**

**<http://www.leaderu.com/focus/college.html>**

**GOD Matters!**

**REMEMBER THAT GRADUATION IS ABOUT  
BEGINNINGS, NOT ENDINGS.**

**WATCH VIDEO 10**



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