



10 Things to Take to College

1. Your Bible

Read God's Word every day. You will never unlock the truths of Scripture or experience the personal realness of Jesus if you keep your Bible closed. **Take time to open it up every day.** Let the Word of God inspire you. Lead you. Teach you. Guide you. There's always something new because it is living and active.

Charles Swindoll says, "... the beautiful thing about this adventure called faith is that we can count on Him never to lead us astray. He knows exactly where He's taking us. Our job is to obey, to live in close fellowship with God as we walk our earthly path. In the process of that simple arrangement, God engages us in His eternal plan."

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost Thoughts and desires." Hebrews 4:12 (TLB)

"The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." Psalm 19:7 (NASB)

2. Laughter


College can be scary and stressful at times. Bring laughter to the table. Laughter diffuses anger and difficult circumstances. It is the perfect medicine to lift you up in hard times.

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed up spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." Proverbs 31:25 (NIV)

3. Peace

Peace will guard your heart against the enemy of worry. The word for worry actually means "to choke." Worry can choke out all the joy God has for you. 1 Peter 5:7 says "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." The word for care actually means that God has you on His mind. And the word cast means to throw with all



your might. Because God cares so much for you, you don't have to worry about the days ahead. When you feel anxious, throw with all your might your cares and concerns before God. His arms are big enough, strong enough, and He's waiting to guard you with His perfect peace.

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

4. Grace

"Grace wins every time." - Matthew West. Yes. It. Does. But grace is hard to extend sometimes—especially when someone hurts you. Jesus tells us to forgive because He has forgiven us. Exodus 14:14 tells us that the Lord will fight for us, we just have to be still. I am convinced that the modern translation for the word "still" must be to take a deep breath and put down your cell phone resisting the urge to text or say something you will regret. Extending grace is letting go of control and allowing God's forgiveness to cover your situation. He's got this, and—He's got you.

"The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14 (NIV)

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

5. Yourself

Be yourself. Don't compare yourself with others and what they have versus what you don't have. Comparison is a trap and a snare set by the enemy who wants you to believe that God doesn't have the best for you in mind. But remember, God has you on His mind at all times. God created you perfect and beautiful. You are His masterpiece, His joy, and His delight.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)



6. Thankfulness

When you find yourself complaining and at a place where there's no joy—stop. On the spot, recite 10 things for which you are thankful. Gratitude is always the best attitude!

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)*

7. Courage

Remember this, the word discouragement has the word **courage** in it. Remember this, the word for disappointment has the word **appointment** in it. Remember this, in the kindness of God's character, he might take something away from you only to protect you.

God loves you and is leading you in the right direction. You might not see it at the time, but always trust in His perfect plan—especially when you cannot see the road ahead.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

8. Dreams

Always remember to follow your dreams and passions. God put them in you for His glory and His future purposes. Not everyone has your dreams, and that's a good thing. You were made significant, a beautiful creation with a unique determination and passion.

*"Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."
Psalm 37:4 (ESV)*

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33 (KJB)

9. Listening Ear

Hear, but don't always listen. Take what you hear and filter it through the truth of God's Word. Take note of David. He heard his brothers, the king, and even a giant try to dissuade him from doing what God had designed him to accomplish. He heard them, but he did not listen to them. This is a very important lesson. David listened only to the voice of God, not the voices in the crowd. This simple obedience led him to victory. It will lead you to victory, too.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." James 1:5 (NIV)

10. New Friends and a Great Church

Get plugged in with other believers as quick as you can. This is super important when going to a big school with big ideas. Find friends who will support you and believe in the same things you do. Friends who will love you and care for you. Never take your eyes off of Jesus and the truth of God's Word. Trust Him at all times and never stop believin'.

"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him." Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

I love you, and I will **always** be praying for you. ~ Mom.