



BUILDING BLOCK **7** High School Graduation



SMRBC'S
**BUILDING
BLOCKS**
Where To Grow Next.



Staples Mill Road
BAPTIST CHURCH

What Are SMRBC's Building Blocks?



SMRBC's Building Blocks is an intentional progressive discipleship map for Staples Mill Road Baptist Church.

We want to enable every believer in our church to know the next step of spiritual growth for themselves and their children, and to equip them with the knowledge and resources to take that next step.

Parents already recognize stages of life within their family through milestones such as Baby dedication, Kindergarten graduation, coming of age, or High School graduation. We can utilize these natural stages of life by equipping parents with resources and preparation to intentionally and consistently disciple their children in both planned and unplanned opportunities, leading their children through this unique stage of life and celebrating their children's physical and spiritual growth alongside them.

Milestones and growth do not stop at High School graduation, and our Building Blocks include specific discipleship goals and spiritual development for everyone in the church. As adults continue to pursue Christ, they too can use the Building Blocks to look to their "next step," growing into mature believers in Christ in faith and ministry.

For each Building Block, we are preparing essential resources including seminars and classes, books, videos, and websites. We will help recognize physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual characteristics of each Building Block, and address the changes in relationships and challenges to faith that each stage brings.

Our goal is to help prepare each person for their next step in discipleship, whether it's parents to prepare their children or adults to grow and step out in faith in their own walks.



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Preparing My Student to Leave Home

The final milestone your children reach before they leave home ushers them into Building Block 7: High School Graduation. This point in life is a culmination of the years poured into them as you have led them, taught them, and loved them. Students will begin making major life decisions including college choice, possible career choice, and a myriad of smaller decisions that will amount to their life's direction.

This time is also a transition for parents. The relationship with your son or daughter must change to a loving mentor and advisor. He or she will soon live on his or her own and make decisions without your direct input. However, the firmer the foundation laid in your child's life, the more likely he or she is to make wise, God-honoring decisions.

College and entry to the working world will also pressure your child in ways he hasn't experienced. His faith will be challenged intently and the responsibility faced could become overwhelming. Preparing your son or daughter for this stage of life is critical to the rest of his or her life.

BE READY...APOLOGETICS

1 Peter 3:15

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”

Apologetics- reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine (Oxford American Dictionaries)

Apologetics is:

- Heartfelt- passionate
- Reasoned- level headed, honest, and understandable
- Prepared- a response prepared from study of God’s Word
- A Reason for Hope- apologetics is designed to help others understand Christianity in hope of their belief to follow
- Gentle and Respectable- Biblical apologetics are passionate but gentle and respectful of others

Apologetics is not:

- An argument with winners and losers
- A defensive posture
- Usually not well received void of relationship

Popular Topics of Apologetics

- ✓ The Existence of God
- ✓ Creation vs. Evolution
- ✓ The Deity of Jesus (Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Crucifixion, Bodily Resurrection)
- ✓ Pluralism- multiple ways (religious paths) to have peace with God
- ✓ The Bible (Inerrancy, Inspiration, Canon, Relevant Application)
- ✓ Purpose of Man
- ✓ Salvation (How, Who, Faith vs. Works, Assurance)
- ✓ Angels & Demons
- ✓ Practical Life (homosexuality, adultery, living together, roles of men and women, sin, involvement in church)

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Which topics of the list above have you or your student dealt with?

Are there others?

Studying and learning doctrine and truth is a lifelong pursuit. Our Student Ministry partners with you to help accomplish these pursuits. But one of the most valuable lessons we can teach students preparing for college is not what, but how!

How do you find the answers when you don't know them?

Step 1: Pray

- **James 1:5**
“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”
- The Holy Spirit works within the believer's heart to reveal Truth. God is the first place to turn when we don't understand or know the answer.

Step 2: Check your worldview

- Media, friends, family, and culture constantly influence us whether we realize it or not. The essential question to ask with all issues in life is whether or not the Bible is THE authority in our lives and not just AN authority among many. Is your approach from a biblical filter and worldview? What is the biblical principle behind the life question faced?

Step 3: Don't be afraid of the words, "I don't know."

- We often feel like we have to have the answers to questions regarding faith and our beliefs. Most Christians acknowledge that as life passes, they realize more of what they don't know and understand. However, God has given us everything we need for the questions of life in His Word. While we will never have all the answers, we have the answers we need, and there are specific aspects of existence that the Bible is not concerned with giving us insight to. Ex.- Why is the sky blue and not green?

Step 4: Use a good Bible

- *A Good Translation*- multiple good translations exist but some bad ones exist as well. Were the translators committed to the original languages? Were there multiple translators? Do they believe in the inerrancy of Scripture? Hint: Most Bibles include an introduction that tells about the method of interpretation used and the people

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involved. Literal renderings (formal equivalent): ESV, NASB, NKJV; Dynamic renderings (functional equivalent): NIV, NLT

- *Reference Bible*- a reference Bible includes cross-references to multiple Scriptures to help reinforce a teaching. Most quality Bibles include cross-references.
- *Teaching Notes or Commentary*- Study Bibles include notes that offer scholarly insight into interpreting a verse or passage of Scripture. However, they are only commentary on the text and may not be accurate 100% of the time.
- *Concordance and Maps*- Many never turn to this section of their Bible, yet the wealth of information can be invaluable when researching.



Step 5: Use Additional Resources

- Rzim.org- Ravi Zacharias; truelife.org; christianityexplored.org
- *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics* edited by Ed Hinson and Ergun Caner
- Note: Many books can be checked out of university libraries if they are too expensive.

Step 6: Ask

- The pastors at Staples Mill Road Baptist Church are always available to help guide you and your students to answers through our study and research of the text.
- Encourage your student to seek out a local pastor where he is involved to answer specific questions. This will create a relationship connection important for his time at school.

BE READY...GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

Ezekiel 11:18-20

“And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”

God has a great plan for your son or daughter and it is important for him to continually hear that. He will face confusion, failure and disillusionment throughout his college and early career. Remind him of the story of Joseph.

Important principles from Joseph's life:

1. God is in control and has a plan. Genesis 37:1-11
2. We are not always perfect in handling it. Genesis 37:1-11
3. God can use horrible evil and create amazing good. Genesis 37:12-36
4. Life is challenging, even when we are faithful. Genesis 39
5. God uses us on His timetable. Genesis 40-41
6. It is all for God's glory; it is His plan. Genesis 42-47

While it isn't likely your son or daughter will endure the injustice experienced by Joseph, he will face real challenges. Guide him to remember God's good plan for him.

BE READY...A PERSON OF INFLUENCE

- **Church Involvement-** One of the first challenges your son or daughter will face after leaving home is consistent church involvement. Leaving the comfort of the nest is difficult. Walking into an unfamiliar world and beginning new relationships after having a very positive church experience at home will be even more difficult. God designed the church to be a local community of believers to study His Word and do life together in community. Taking this step will be vital.
 - ✓ Visit churches when you visit the campus
 - ✓ Research churches online
 - ✓ Make appointments with college pastors and others that will make the transition smoother
 - ✓ Talk to students who currently attend that school about which church they attend
 - ✓ Set up rides to church the first month they are there

Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

- **City on a Hill**
 - ✓ The entry to adulthood provides amazing opportunity to influence others on the journey. It also provides a great time to be influenced.

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- ✓ Challenge your son or daughter to live in the world and influence it toward Christ instead of living in the world and slowly becoming part of it. What's needed to remain salty:
 - Accountability
 - Open and honest communication
 - A solid network of godly friends

BE READY...DATING AND MARRIAGE

Dating takes on new meanings in college. While the age young adults marry continues to trend upward, many will at least be looking for a future husband or wife while in school. Dating becomes a lot more serious and so do the positive and negative consequences. Without the accountability (passive or active) of parents, dating can quickly escalate physically and emotionally. Equipping your son or daughter to handle the additional pressure of dating in the freedom of college life is crucial.

Courtship- Intentional Dating by Another Name

- ✓ Dating with the intent of marriage if God leads that direction
- ✓ Dating with purity in mind and action
- ✓ Choosing a person who is not only a believer, but someone who is growing and ready to be married
- ✓ Casual hang-out time usually done in groups

Re-visit Building Block 5

As a parent, this is a good stage to continually re-visit all that was discussed in Building Block 5: Purity for Life.

Biblical Purity

Romans 12:1-2

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

"Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

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Biblical Sex

Genesis 2:23-25

Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 7

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,
For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

Modesty

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

A Note for Girls: Dating in college can seem exciting but it can also be dangerous. Date rape is a major problem on most college campuses. At times drugs are used but more often, alcohol is the main culprit. Have a straight-forward discussion with your daughter about parties, being alone with a guy she doesn't know well, and the inherent dangers of alcohol with respect to rape.

Marriage

- ✓ Pray for their future spouse
 - ✓ Begin guiding them through discussions about the realities of marriage, both positive and negative.
 - ✓ Help them understand what it means to become one and love sacrificially and selflessly.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-9
 - Ephesians 5:22-24
- Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is

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himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

- Ephesians 5:25, 28
Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,... In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

- Ephesians 5:31
Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

BE READY...LIFE SKILLS

The freedom found in leaving the nest brings certain responsibilities. Many of these responsibilities are so natural to parents that we fail to pass them along. Some responsibilities aren't forgotten but are a Mom or Dad's last effort to hold on to their baby. Preparing your son or daughter for the real world away from home necessitates teaching these Life Skills and letting go.

Life Skills:

- ✓ Clothes- Washing, drying, ironing, folding, organizing
- ✓ Car care- Changing a flat tire, checking the oil, checking tires, watching gauges and warning lights, who to call in case of an emergency
- ✓ Time Management
- ✓ Money Management- Many college students leave college with unbelievable amounts of debt. Not only is it their primary method of paying for tuition, books and rent but credit will also often fund bad spending habits. Smartphones, data charges, new clothes, eating out, and entertainment debt can place enormous stress on a graduating senior. Teaching your son or daughter to handle money wisely will prepare him to handle life as it comes his way.
 - Simple Budgeting (using and balancing a checkbook)
 - Tithing
 - Credit Cards
 - Saving Money
 - Paying Bills
 - Credit Score/Credit Reporting
 - Retirement and Investments

FAMILY CELEBRATION: WRITTEN BLESSING

The Written Blessing is a lasting memory you can give your son or daughter. The blessing she receives from you will literally empower her to move forward in becoming an adult and embrace all that God has for her and her future. Many children leave home without ever receiving or perceiving a blessing from their mom, dad, or both. This opportunity will allow you to express your love and dreams for your son or daughter.

The Written Blessing coincides with the Campus Event: Senior Summit.

Resource: *The Blessing* by John Trent

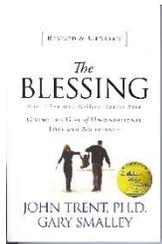
CAMPUS EVENT: SENIOR SUMMIT

Senior Summit will take place each year preceding High School Graduation. It is an event where parents and students share a meal together with our Student Ministry Leaders. Our leaders will give a final challenge to seniors and their parents as they close out high school and embark on the next stage of the journey.

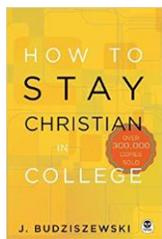
The focal point of the evening is a 30-minute time where parents take their son or daughter to a place on campus and read the blessing they have written to their child. The parents pray with their children and bless them to become the adult God has designed them to become.

The students will also be recognized in a ceremony on a Sunday morning in June.

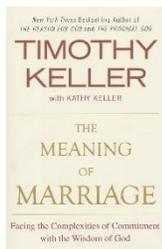
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



The Blessing by John Trent, Gary Smalley



How to Stay Christian in College by J. Budziszewski



The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller, Kathy Keller



axis.org- Gain weekly insight into how **pop culture**, technology, and media are influencing your students

RightNow Media Resources (streaming video)



Apologetics by Matt Chandler

Answering tough questions about God and Christianity

Why does God allow suffering and tragedy? Does science disprove Christianity? Is Jesus really the only way? Why are Christians so hypocritical? Christians throughout the ages have wrestled with questions like these, and chances are, so do you. Having faith isn't always easy. You may not always have the “winning” answer that makes you popular. Sometimes believing the Bible might make you feel like everyone's against you. But it's critical that you don't run from these types of questions.

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ALL BUILDING BLOCKS



BUILDING BLOCK **1** New Child



BUILDING BLOCK **3** Salvation and Baptism



BUILDING BLOCK **5** Purity for Life



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BUILDING BLOCK **9** The Mature Believer



BUILDING BLOCK **2** School-Age Kids



BUILDING BLOCK **4** Preparing for Adolescence



BUILDING BLOCK **6** Passage to Adulthood



BUILDING BLOCK **8** Life in Christ

www.legacymilestones.com

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