



COMMISSION Milestone

"Where is God Leading Me?"

***Following Christ into the World with
Purpose, Passion, & Perseverance***

"...fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the Gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel..."

2 Timothy 1:6-10

To PARENTS of GRADUATE: Your Child is Not Alone, & Neither are You!

A Call to Parents "to release" but "to continue to pour in"!

Congratulations on growing your child all the way to this wonderful Milestone occasion of graduation! Whether this is your first go-around with a graduate in your house or not, we know that this year has probably been full of a range of emotions and big decisions, and that these weeks ahead leading up to graduation day and then the transitional summer time that follows it can be eventful, busy, stressful, and even full of more emotions. But we also think that this is a beautiful season too, and that the Lord has wonderful things in store for your family, your graduate, and you as parents through these transitions!

This packet is an extension of hope, help, and **partnership from HFFBC to your family**. This is us at HFFBC, as the local extension of Jesus' global Church, reaching out to you and letting you know that 1) your child, and now graduate, is not alone! While it is hard to imagine the child you brought into the world and raised for the past 17-18 years grown up and out on their own, we simply want to remind you that the sovereign God of the universe promises that He will be with "with you, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). Jesus will be walking alongside your child wherever he/she goes. Take heart in that beautiful truth that our God is not one who leaves any of us on our own, but is always with us and accessible in prayer by the power of the Holy Spirit! **Release** your child to the Lord and to the wonderful plans He has for them, and to the future mentors and shepherds that will come into their lives. Pray in advance for those people!



But we also want to communicate to you that 2) neither are you alone as parents and as a family! While much of your family identify may have been filtered through your child's involvement in the student ministries here during high school, we want to encourage you and remind you that the larger body of Christ here in Hampton Falls is with you and here to come alongside you as you begin this family transition. Whether you have more children you're still raising through our student ministries, or whether you're now an empty nester, we at HFFBC are here to support, love, pray for, encourage, and worship the Risen Savior alongside you. We pray that you will continue to take advantage of the opportunities and resources that God has gifted us with here at HFFBC to care for you and your family.



Lastly, this packet is also meant to challenge and encourage you to continue take on the responsibility of the primary role that you play in the spiritual upbringing of your child, even though they're now young adults and more independent than before. Continue to **pour in to them**, and to others! The Bible teaches that parents are the primary spiritual caregivers of their families (see Deut. 6) and that the role of the father and mother in the spiritual growth and development of their child cannot be understated. Pray for your graduate, send them Scriptures of encouragement, call them often, and continue to pour into their lives the truths of the Risen Savior through your care and empowering of them as young adults. This packet includes several items that we hope will encourage both you and the graduate during these transitional weeks. May God bless you richly in these years!



In Christ,
Steven White, Pastor of Student Ministries
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To the GRADUATE: You are Not Alone, & Learning What it Means to Follow

A Call to Graduates to be “**dependently-independent**”!

Congratulations on accomplishing this major “Milestone” and for completing this task that the Lord has put before you! You are about to embark on life’s grand adventure in a new way, with new independence and with new opportunities. We are so excited for you and believe God has a wonderful plan in mind just for you! But as you begin to transition towards a more **independent** life, apart maybe from your parents and your home for the first time, our prayer and encouragement for you is to become increasingly **dependent** as you become more independent. How does that work?! Our prayer is that you find your ultimate hope in life in depending on the grace and love of our Lord Jesus and that you follow Him dependently your whole life, even as you gain more and more independence. Below are some points that help explain what I mean:

1. God is BEHIND you. Remember the story of the pillar of cloud and fire from the Exodus story? In the most uncertain time they had ever faced, when everything felt like imminent disaster, the fire and cloud appeared, guiding God’s people through the wilderness. But when they were in danger, it stood BEHIND them, protecting them from harm while they crossed the sea into what was next. It was a buffer, a wall, a sign they were not alone. Just like that, God is behind you. And we are behind you. We’ve been here. We will be here. We see you, and we’re watching you—in the best kind of non-creepy way possible.

2. God is WITH you. In the Exodus story, the pillar of fire and cloud moved to the front of the crowd of terrified travelers and stayed there, right with them. When the fire and cloud moved, the people moved. When the fire and cloud stayed, they stayed. It was a sign that God was WITH them.

a. This next season might feel a lot like Exodus—leaving everything you’ve ever known and wandering in the desert. But you are not alone. God is with you. We will be with you. It’ll be different—we won’t be doing the same things we’ve been doing together, week after week, in the same ways. We won’t have the same amount of time together. But we’re with you in prayer. We’re with you in all the ways our smartphones make possible. Look at your phone today and make sure a leader or two are in your favorites list, especially to remind you who you can reach out to when things get hard. Because they will.

b. But we can’t be your only community. Wherever you go, find community and stay connected. Not only does this just sound like a good idea, and not only does Scripture back this up, but research actually backs this up. You are way more likely to keep walking in faith if you’re walking WITH other people who are trying to do the same.

Jesus beckons every morning, “Follow me.” There’s an ordinary rhythm to everyday discipleship that calls us to get up, show up, and be faithful every day, wherever we find ourselves. Sounds simple. But these simple disciplines are where the extraordinary hide—right in the midst of the ordinary. However you best connect with God—stick with that. However you best serve God in the world, in the church, in your relationships—use that. And remember that God is crazy about you, and is WITH you, no matter what.

3. God is FOR you. And we are FOR you. There will be doubt on the journey ahead—maybe doubt you never expected. And failure. But doubt is not the end. Failure is not the end. They’re moments of opportunity to lean into mystery. The worst thing you could do is remain silent about doubts. The book of Exodus isn’t really a story of trust as much as it’s a story of doubt, fear, and the human inability to manage their circumstances—or God. But it’s also a story of God’s ridiculous faithfulness to his people despite all of that. All of it. It was like over and over you could hear God whispering, “No matter what, I’m FOR you. It’s Who I am.” That’s grace. God is for you. We are for you.

4. God’s AHEAD of you — and all of us. There are a lot of ways we are saying we are behind, with and for you, just like God. Now let’s level it. God’s also in front—God is AHEAD—of us all. The future is God’s, and we walk into it together. That future is marked by HOPE—the hope of a God who will faithfully be with us in life and death, and who promises resurrection. Someday our “hello” will be a forever hello.

So as you go, never forget:

1. Because God’s behind you, we’re BEHIND you!
2. Because God’s with you, we’re WITH you!
3. Because God’s for you, we’re FOR you!
4. God’s AHEAD of you—and *all* of us.



This is not goodbye—this is Hello World. And it’s YOUR hello. So let’s get to it.

In Christ,

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I. What is a "Commission"?



The "**Commission Milestone**" is the pinnacle Milestone of our Student Ministries at HFFBC. If you were to be born as a baby into HFFBC today, Lord willing, you would walk through 7 different unique, and intentional faith "Milestones" in the next 18 years of life before arriving at this milestone — "Commission." So if this is the pinnacle, then what has been leading up to this, and what is this Milestone leading towards?

The First 7 Milestones —> Building a Faith that Lasts a Lifetime

- The Milestones leading up to this have been aimed specifically at building up a young person's faith in Christ, at key development and spiritual junctures in a kid's life, so that they can trust in Jesus as their Savior and then grow to be full person disciples of Jesus - one who learning and coming to understand what means to be a **knowing, growing, and going** person for Christ and active participants and worshippers in His multi and inter-generational, global Church.



Dedication
(0-2 years)



Foundation
(Preschool)



Bible
(1st Grade)



Communion
(5-6th Grade)



Step-Up
(7 & 9th Grade)



Discipleship
(10th Grade)



Baptism
(11th Grade)

The 8th and Pinnacle Milestone —> Sending that Faithful Person into the World

- The goal and aim then of this final Milestone, "Commission" is send that faith that has been building in these young disciples during their childhood and adolescence out into a world that so desperately needs to hear the love of Jesus. In short then, the "Commission Milestone" is about **sending missionaries** of Jesus Christ out into the world with a church full of prayer warriors and faithful encouragers behind them.



Commission
(12th Grade)



What the Bible says about Commissioning:

Our understanding of biblical "commissioning" comes from recognizing first how the Bible talks about God as being the God who sends, how He gave His created image bearers at creation responsibilities and purposes to carry out, how He gives each of His followers a mission to the world, and how He sends us out with His Holy Spirit. **When the Bible talks about Commissioning, it talks about being "sent out" from His church, with the power of His Holy Spirit, and for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus and bringing the glory of God to the ends of the earth.** See some verses below!

"And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." **Genesis 1:28**

"And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." **Isaiah 6:5-8**

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **Luke 4:18-19**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." **John 3:16**

"As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." **John 17:18**

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **Matthew 28:18-20**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus." **Acts 13:2-4**

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." **2 Corinthians 5:18-20**

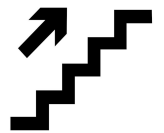
How we "Commission" at HFFBC:

Therefore, out of the biblical understanding of "commissioning", at HFFBC we commission missionaries whom we are sending as a church out into the world to share the love of Christ and to bring hope to those in need. We believe as a Student Ministry then at HFFBC that God is sending our graduates out into the world (to college, to the workforce, etc.) with the same task - to share Jesus and to bring hope to others wherever they are.

We do this for our graduating Seniors in two settings:

1. Wednesday Step-Up Celebration

(for Wednesday Youth Group students)



The culmination of the academic year and of a student's Wednesday night youth group experience at HFFBC is the annual end of year cookout and Step-Up Celebration. At the end of this night our seniors are put front and center in our church in 4 ways:

1. Given **intentional gifts** that are meant to encourage and spur the graduates on to deeper discipleship unto Christ as they transition away.
2. Emboldened and charged with a **commission** from the Scriptures that is meant to spur the graduates on to purposeful living in the world.
3. **Prayed** for and **sent off** as God's ambassadors in the world.
4. **Welcomed** into the College & Young Professionals fellowship at HFFBC. See more about this later in the packet.

2. Senior Sunday

(for those who call HFFBC their home church)



For those who call HFFBC their home church for Sunday worship with their family we also have a deeper and more public "**Commission**" on a Sunday morning during the larger corporate worship services. This is a similar time to the Wednesday night commissioning, but includes two different components:

1. Students are given an **ESV Reader's Bible** to use to further their personal times with the Lord in Scripture reading. This particular Bible removes much of the visual distractions from modern Bibles (footnotes & verse numbers in particular) and encourages the reader to simply read the text of God's Word, which is powerful enough in and of itself to change us.
2. The congregation is charged with the responsibility, in front of the students, to pray for the graduates. This is a powerful moment displaying the unity and beauty of the church.

II. "Where is God Leading Me?"



This is the grand question that most Seniors and soon-to-be-graduates (and honestly even young adults, adults, and everybody!) are asking. While many life decisions may have been made by this point in the year, I'm sure there are many others that are still lingering in the back of your mind and heart that still fall under this category of - **"Where is God leading me?"**

But before we give some clarity to that question and look ahead, let's look back and see the 4 big transitions that teenagers go through during the teenage years. Though many of these were begun at age 12 or 13, and maybe many of them have been sorted out by this time, all of these transitions still will continue on into your future - the transitions going on in **me**, between **me & others**, between **me & God**, and between **me & the world**. Review these again and see where you land with these questions:

1. Developmental Transitions - ME

As you can imagine, kids are developing a lot during these teenage years! Growing taller, learning knowledge of specific things, developing a heart and passion for specific things, etc. Physically, mentally, emotionally and psychologically **YOU** are developing into the individual person that you will become for the rest of your life. This is deeply important! Erikson's Stages of Development teaches us that from age 12-18 teens begin to develop a sense of self and personal identity. The big question becomes for a teenager - "Who am I?"



Questions a student will be asking about developmental things:

- **Who am I? What are my gifts? What are my strengths/weaknesses?**
- **Do I have unique worth? Do I have anything to contribute? What am I passionate about?**

2. Social Transitions - ME & OTHERS

But it is not just you individually who are changing and developing during these years, but it is you in relationship to everyone and everything around you as well! Kids are learning how they individually and uniquely relate to world around them. How we learn to live in relationship to other humans around us and to the world around us, will prove vital to how we live out the rest of our lives. The next big question then becomes for a teenager - "How do we live together in this world?"



Questions a student will be asking about social things:

- **What kind of person will I be? Kind or mean? Loving or hateful? Generous or greedy? Hard-working or lazy? Live by my own values or my parents' values?**
- **Will I fit in with those around me? What kind of friends do I value or want?**

3. Spiritual Transitions - ME & GOD

As has been widely noted, the teenage years are critical when it comes to whether or not a life of faith will be maintained or left behind. It is often during these years that we decide how much we want God to play a role in our lives.



Questions a student will be asking about spiritual things:

- **Who is God? Is He real? Do I desire to know Him? Does He desire to know me?**
- **Why do bad things happen in the world? Is there hope? Is there eternal life?**
- **Do I believe? Do I desire to be part of His people? Do I want to follow Him?**

4. Worldview Transitions - ME & the World

While the other three transitions really begin to take place in 7th grade, maybe the biggest transition for a new 9th grader that is different than something that has already begun to take place in the Jr. High years is this — the change that begins to take place in me as I begin to see the world in all its complexity and wonder. It is usually in the high school years that students begin to wrestle with the pressing issues of our world - politics, environment, race, economics, sexuality, etc... As the world begins to become large and complex in our eyes, how do we find our identity, equilibrium, and purpose in a world like that? Through what lens will students choose to view the world - one of suspicion, individualism, and cynicism? Or one of faith, hope, and love?

Questions a student will be asking about worldview things:

- **What is the world really like? Why is it that way? What caused it to be that way?**
- **What can I do to change the world? Can/Should I change the world or just give in to what others do?**
- **Is Jesus really the hope of the world? How can I see the world as God sees it?**
- **Am I willing to look and act different in order to live more authentically? What am I willing to sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel?**





What the Bible Says About These Transitions:

At HFFBC and within our Student Ministries here at HFFBC, we believe the Bible has much to teach us about the developmental, social, and spiritual challenges of these formative and transitional years. The Bible teaches us that before each of us were born, God knew us (see Jeremiah 1:5) and that He knows us deeply! (see Psalm 139). Our truest identity comes from knowing the God of the Universe, who created all things and who created you individually, uniquely, and particularly. Ephesians 1 teaches us that our truest identity is found “in Christ”, who “chose us before the foundation of the world” (v. 4) to the “praise of His glorious grace” (v.6). Additionally, each of us are uniquely created and have all been given gifts that suit us particularly and to be used for others (Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12). We have deep, intrinsic worth; we have God-given passions; and we each have things to contribute to the world that nobody else can, because we are each uniquely and individually made for deep purposes that God intends to show us and work out in us over the course of our lives. Our understanding of ourself and our deep intrinsic worth comes from seeing how much God sacrificed (His own Son Jesus!) to be in relationship with each of us personally.

Therefore, the Bible also teaches us that we were given these gifts and passions to use not for our personal gain, but for *others*, because we were made to live in relationship to one another and to be in fellowship with others (see Genesis 2 and Acts 2). As Christians, we are the body of Christ and each have individual gifts and functions that contribute to a larger whole (see 1 Cor. 12). Therefore, we *need* one another and must seek out friends and people to live in relationship with, to spur one another on to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24). We each get to choose *how* we live in relationship to one another, but the Bible implores us to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 19:19). While we live in a sinful world where much of our interactions with others will be difficult and broken and often painful, God shows us in the Scriptures that a taste of the future heavenly fellowship is made available to those who trust in Him in the Church. And that even though there are persecutions and troubles that will come to those who trust in Him, Jesus calls us to “love your enemies” (Luke 6:27) and to “bless those who curse you” (Luke 6:28). Our relationships with others is to be defined by deep love, out of the love Christ has shown us.

And so then the Bible teaches us that God is seeking out friendship and relationship with each of us. He desires to be in our lives and for us to spend eternity with Him (John 3), and He desires that all people be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). He works all things together for good in His loving, sovereign plan. Jesus Christ is God in flesh who came to take away the sins of the world, which He did on the cross. God is real, and He has made a way for us to know Him - in Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

So still, "where is God leading me?"

After then after looking at God's design for us in our transitions and in our developmental years, it is clear that God has a good purpose, a plan, and a will for our lives. And it's clear *where* He is leading us so that we can live lives that matter and that have can immense impact on others in the most eternal way possible —



TO THE WORLD!

This doesn't mean you have to be a global missionary sent to some far away nation. No, this simply means that you were made for others and not for yourself. You were put on this earth to proclaim something different. **Simply, while we don't know what His exact will is for your life** (*what you'll do, who you'll marry, where you'll live, etc.*). **But we do know God desires you to obediently follow Jesus into His world with faith and to do so with these three things:**

Purpose - Your purpose is to glorify God, to make Jesus known, and to communicate His good news to as many people as possible. We believe your central purpose in life is that. More than making money, having a wonderful family, providing for tangible needs for others, or being a good person - your purpose is living for the One who gave you life! You are to "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). That's a purposeful life!

Passion - We pray that you find ways to accomplish that purpose in ways that excite you and that fill your heart with a burning passion. You'll probably struggle to find that in the next several years, but we'll be praying that you simply try things with the hopes of finding your passion in life. Keep your purpose primary, but seek out your passion and what God made you for. The Apostle Paul said that it was His "ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named" (Rom. 15:20). That was His life's passion.

Perseverance - Lastly, life is hard. Even when we know our purpose and find passion, and live out our whole life doing those two things — life is hard and will wear you down. But don't give up. Keep pressing on! Paul said, "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self ^{his} being renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16). The Scriptures are littered with calls to persevere, to remain, to abide, to be steadfast, etc... And then Jesus says gives us an amazing comfort that I pray you never lose sight of — "Take heart, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

So "where is God leading me?" THIS SUMMER

Often new grads can feel a bit lonely, disconnected, or "group-less" after graduating. Let it not be! Here are 3 wonderful options of ways you can plug-in this summer!

This means "College And Young Professionals" :)

"CAYP" Fellowship Nights

Come join us for fun, informal nights of a FREE and delicious dinner, Christian encouragement, and prayer for young adults in similar life seasons. This is for those roughly ages 18-25, though it consists of recent high school grads, current college students, those taking gap years, recent college grads, and young working professionals. Come and invite your friends!



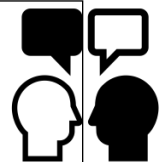
Sr. High "Sup n' Stuffs"

You can continue to come and are invited to the Sr. High summer "Sup n' Stuffs" this summer. This is a great way to encourage younger teenagers, to help welcome the new freshman, and to maintain your friendships within the church youth group. Also, towards the end of the summer we like to have our departing graduates share any bits of advice or "final words" to the high schoolers.



Summer Sunday School

You're invited, as always, to take part in adult summer Sunday school classes that will be helpful for you as you build new relationships and friendships in the world ahead of you.



So “where is God leading me?” THIS FALL & BEYOND

Beyond this summer, below are some important things we recommend for you to do to better discern and understand where God is leading you in life. Whether you’re going far away to school, or staying close to home here in NH, we believe each of these things are crucial to your growth as a **dependently-independent** person, who follows Christ faithfully as a growing adult:

Immerse yourself in a local church

Whether it’s HFFBC or another church, it is *crucial* that you plug yourself into a local body of Christ to continue to grow in your understanding and heart for Jesus and His world. Below are some things we think are vital when looking for a church for a young adult like you (and we hope for HFFBC to be this for those of you staying local!).

Look for a church that:

- Preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ first and foremost
- Loves its local community well and is intentional about global mission efforts
- Is intergenerational - having a mix of older people, young families, small children, and not just everyone who’s your age
- Has opportunities for small groups and 1-on-1 mentoring
- That loves you, cares for you, challenges you, encourages you, and feeds your soul

And please remember, NO CHURCH IS PERFECT!



Find a 1-on-1 mentor

Growing up through our student ministries at HFFBC, we hope and pray that you were able to connect with a 1-on-1 mentor who was someone other than your parents. If this was the case, and it was a healthy situation, we pray and encourage you to continue that relationship going forward. If you didn’t have a mentor in high school, we pray that you make an intentional effort to seek out someone older and wiser to pour into your life, walk alongside you, open the Scriptures with you, and pray with you. If you plan to stay nearby, let us know and we’d love to connect you with a 1-on-1 mentor here at HFFBC!



Take healthy leaps of faith

Jump into a campus ministry at college, go on a short-term missions trip, study abroad, share the Gospel with your co-workers/roommates, befriend someone very different than you, rely hard on God, read through the whole Bible in a year, etc... As Kevin DeYoung says, if you want to find God’s will for your life, “Just Do Something!” Take a leap of faith and learn for yourself what it means that God is our “rock, refuge, and deliverer”

(Psalm 18:2).



III. Your Sr. Gifts - why we chose them

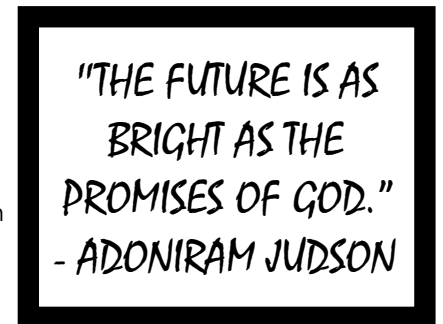
Wednesday Night Youth Group Senior Gifts



For our Wednesday night students, we chose two gifts for specific reasons. Recognizing that several of you go to other churches than HFFBC on Sundays, we wanted to you gifts to help you remember your time in youth group, to know that you are loved and being prayed for, and to give you something nice to take with you and use in your everyday life going forward.

1. A Visual Reminder

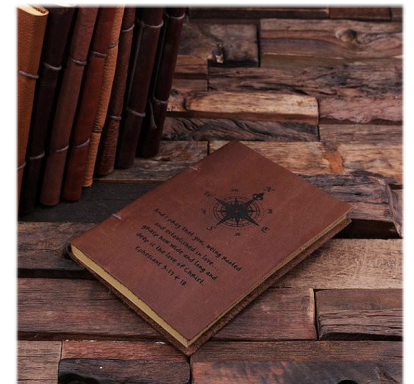
The first gift is a hand-made picture of one of the quotes we hope you remember as you journey on in life in the future. It is a quote from the missionary Adoniram Judson, who upon entering the mission field in Burma, which we have often quote as we leave the church parking lot for our church "go" trips. Secondly, on the backside of the quote board is pictures from each of our 4 Shiloh Fall Retreats. We encourage you to put this on your bedside table, hang it on the wall, or take it with you to college. We pray that when you see it you remember these things:



- You're loved and cared for by many people here at HFFBC who have gotten to know you through youth group.
- You are being prayed for now, and will continue to be prayed for in the future
- Genuine Christian community is one of the dearest gifts in life. Treasure these memories of HFFBC youth group and look for community like this in the future.
- Lastly, your future is the hands of a God who has continually kept His promises. And, therefore, your future, as a follower of Jesus Christ, is indeed bright.

2. A Gift to Chronicle Your Life

The second gift is a hand-crafted, genuine cowhide, leather journal for you to use to jot down notes about your life or about dreams you have. It has a picture of a compass on the front of it, with Ephesians 3:17-18 written out as well. This is to remind you constantly that your life, and all the memories and challenges that may come ahead, is dependently and led by the unfathomably deep love of Christ. Let Him guide your life! On the bottom right then is the customized phrase "Know. Grow. Go.", which you recognize to be our HFFBC Student Ministries purpose statement in short. We pray that you continue to do those three things throughout your whole life - know Jesus, grow to be more like Him, and go to serve and tell the world about Jesus!



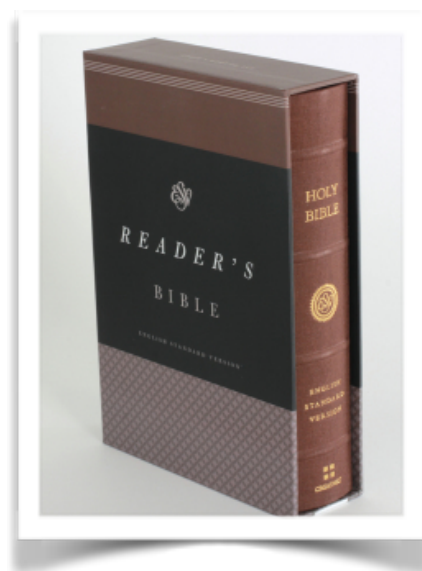
HFFBC Sunday Morning Senior Gifts



Then for those that call HFFBC their home church for Sunday morning and beyond, we have two more special gifts to give you on our **Senior Sunday**.

1. A Bible to Take With You

- When babies are born into our church, we give parents resources immediately to help grow their children in their understanding and love of God's Word. Then in 1st grade we intentionally give students their first Bible from the church to help encourage personally devotion time with God in the Bible. It is special then to have our final gift to graduating high schoolers to also be a Bible. Graduates then are given an **ESV Reader's Bible** to use to further their personal times with the Lord in Scripture reading. This particular Bible removes much of the visual distractions from modern Bibles (footnotes & verse numbers in particular) and encourages the reader to simply read the text of God's Word, which is powerful enough in and of itself to change us. We pray you use it to draw close to God, to love Him more deeply and to devote your full life's passion to making Him know not all those around you.

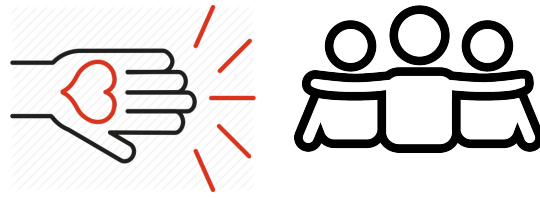


2. A Prayer Journal from the Church

- the second gift is a uniquely-picked-out-for-you journal that people from the whole church have been encouraged to write you notes of encouragement, prayers, notable Scriptures, or memories in. Read through this journal and be reminded and encouraged about how God's body cares for you, loves you, and is praying for you. You have a wonderful support system behind you that is sending you out into the world, not alone but with a host of prayer warriors and faithful followers of Christ with you!

See you on Senior Sunday! We look forward to honoring you and praying for you during that special day during the morning worship services!

IV. Faith that lasts a Lifetime



Therefore, the church here at HFFBC encourages you (both students and parents) to jump into all that God has in store for you in these exciting young adult years. We will be praying for you to *release* well and to learn *independence* well, all the while being wholly *dependent* on the Lord Jesus Christ to guide you.

Students, it is our sincere hope and desire that as you enter into college, the working world, and/or a season of discernment (“gap year”), and as you progress into early adulthood, as your life gets more independent, and as options of the world come crashing into your everyday life, that you will choose to stick to Jesus. We pray that you will choose to follow Him, and to jump into a genuine and authentic Christian community, either here at HFFBC or somewhere else that preaches the Gospel of Jesus first and foremost. Trust that the Lord will grow and shape you into His image more and more. Love the Lord, serve Him, and tell others about Him!

Parents, it is also our sincere hope and desire that *you* encourage and pray for your new graduate, while still learning how to healthily release them to the Lord. We pray that you will lean on the church for guidance, community, encouragement, challenge and correction, and spiritual resourcing. We invite you to all our church has to offer to adults to help you learn how to best do this and not feel like you’re doing this all on your own.

So our challenge and invitation to you is this - take a chance on Jesus (that He is who He says He is) and on His instituted vessel, the church, to do and be for each of you what it is meant to be and do - to shepherd and lead you towards the Risen Christ. And trust that, “he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6). May you, the graduate, lean on Jesus fully and for all your days so that you may be wise in a world so desperate for full of Godly wisdom. And then will, as Daniel says, “shine...like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

What’s the key to “faith that lasts a lifetime”? Simply sticking close to Jesus, leaning wholly on Him, and giving everything you’ve got for Him. Do that & you will find Jesus to be the most beautiful thing the world has to offer, not just for a few days or a few years, for all eternity.

So are we leaving you with a map? No

“When it comes to God’s will, many of us want the GPS version of God hopefully with a turn-by-turn British-American voice prompting us at every intersection. Sometimes God gives people very specific instructions mapping out what they are to do in detail, but this is rare. The world, however is a map factory. It continually bombards us with plans for success, agendas both personal and political, and road signs that read “happiness just ahead.” Most maps lead toward personal gratification and status or just loop back around to the status-quo. A map is very appealing to a person looking for direction. But the map is an easy way out. It appeals to the lazy. God gives *people direction* more than directions. He will not rob you of the faith-building exercise of obeying Him based on what He says, not on what you see. We cannot expect to get all the detailed instructions before we are willing to begin traveling the path.



Instead, we are encouraging you towards a **Compass**...

“The Bible doesn’t lay out a “map.” It gives us a “**compass**.” God calls you to join Him in journeying in a steady direction toward a grand global destiny. He is calling us to follow a **compass** and to evaluate any maps that come our way by His over-arching purpose. From the beginning, God has been orchestrating history toward a climactic destiny for all the earth, a redemption that fulfills his purpose for people. You could call this the “True North” of His purpose. God graciously invites our participation in this grand journey by giving us the compass of His word and pointing us in the direction of “True North.” Following His call not only brings us into the awesome significance of aligning our hearts with God’s own passion, we also join a journey pursued by believers of all time.



The most limiting thing about maps is that they only give you already-charted territory. They can only take you as far as someone else has been. Mapped-out life plans don’t push you to pioneer and explore what hasn’t ever been done. If you keep following the **compass** Jesus gives us, you will find yourself involved in pursuing His global task toward completion. To finish His journey means that at some point you move beyond the edge of maps.

Our maps will change from season to season in our lives, but the **compass** is unchanging. The **compass** is the same for all God’s people. It always gives the direction to True North no matter what your language, your country, your social status, your family, or your ability. It stands as a firm standard. By marking out True North and giving us a **compass**, Christ enables us to think, pray, plan, coach, challenge, create, suffer and labor with many others. It’s not a solo pilgrimage. He’s summoned us to step into and help fulfill what believers of previous generations have already begun and what millions of fellow-followers are pursuing at this moment. Living life on purpose means letting God’s agenda and the True North of His heart become the guiding principle for all our decisions. If they thought it was possible, most people would love to find themselves moving in a purpose that culminates the story of the entire world in magnificent ways.”

Taken from “Life on Purpose” by Claude Hickman, Steven Hawthorne and Todd Ahrend in the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Reader* (4th Edition).