

## **Cultivating Community in Post-Grad: Family & Friends**

1. How often do you talk to your parents, siblings, or other relatives that you may have?
2. When you were younger, where did your grandparents live, and how often did you visit them?
3. If you have kids, how often would you like or expect them to call you or even visit you?
4. How many times a week did your parents hang out with their friends while you were growing up? Describe the situation. (E.g., weekly dinner, church group, etc.)

### ***When & where are your friends?***

1. When/where did you spend time with friends in high school?
2. When/where have you spent time with friends in college?
3. Well, then when/where do you think you'll spend time with your friends when you work a full time job?

### ***How much time will you have when you're working?***

Consider a list of things that you do not/have not done for yourself through college, but will probably have to do when you are living on your own when working?

## **Principles for Building Relationships Post-Grad**

1. Be Intentional – how hard do you have to try to make time for important relationships in your life right now?
2. Prioritize your family (1 Timothy 5:3-8)
3. Prioritize your friends. Yes, you read that right. (Galatians 6:10 speaks of prioritizing fellow believers as an extension of the principle to prioritize your family.)
4. Build routines and habits now of making time for relationships, activities.
  - a. Example: The commonplace arrangement of living in a suburb but driving to work/church. That will require much time in commuting and make it harder to spend time with people.
  - b. Example: Making time for a regular small group
  - c. Example: prioritizing certain relationships (even among friends). If you have time once a week to see one friend for lunch, and you have 10 friends you want to see, what do you do? Do you rotate that lunch among your 10 friends so that one month you see one friend, and then the next month you see the next friend? That sounds good, but that can get old fast. If I had lunch once a month, I would try to see that same one or two friends each month. While I would miss seeing more of my other friends, I need the depth and consistency of seeing a friend more than just 1x a year. This takes getting used to.

## **Getting Started**

1. Realize that your “close friends” you have spent considerable time with in college may greatly change after you graduate.
2. Realize that the people you will spend considerable time with in the future (i.e., co-workers).
3. Prioritize family habits now: calling your parents, your siblings, writing emails/letters, setting up Skype times.
4. Less outgoing people will need to use “formal” or “structured” times like small groups, ministry teams, clubs, to make friends.
5. More outgoing people will need to realize they have to focus on fewer relationships.