

For future reference

A gift Bible ceremony for the college graduate

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Graduation from college is an important milestone in a young woman's life. The occasion is marked by ceremonies, gifts, dinners, speeches, etc. One gift that can have special meaning to a graduate is a Bible, presented to her in a simple ceremony by her friends.

If you wish to give a Bible to a graduating friend, the following plan can be used (or adapted) for the ceremony.

Preparation

1. Decide on a date and time. Keep in mind the busy schedules of most graduates, and set the date accordingly. (One schedule you should definitely remember is the final exam schedule. You will not want to schedule the ceremony the night before the graduate has a final in differential equations!"

The gift Bible ceremony can be held after all graduation activities are over. Since many graduations are held on Friday or Saturday, you could present the Bible in a Sunday afternoon ceremony.

2. Decide on a place to hold the ceremony. Some suggestions are: a home, the church, the Baptist Student Union building, or a meeting room in a dormitory. The meeting place needs to be convenient for all participants.

3. Extend invitations to the ceremony. The number of guests is flexible. As many people as the graduate wishes can be invited.

4. Enlist persons to take speaking parts. The ceremony includes parts for four persons, however, one person can have more than one part. Perhaps her family members (especially mother or father) would like to attend.

5. Purchase a Bible. You may want to get a nice, fairly expensive Bible which the graduate can use as a special keepsake. Or, since many women already have a Bible (or several), you can give her a Bible she can give to a non-Christian. If you choose to do the latter, a modern language translation is preferable. A modern translation

would be more understandable for a non-Christian or someone with a limited religious background.

6. Purchase a binder of some sort—a loose-leaf notebook, a folder, or a plastic or pasteboard report cover (the kind used for term papers), in this binder place a cover page with the theme, the date, and the graduate's name. Also add a script of the ceremony and a page on which participants can sign their names to the binder. This binder will be given to the graduate so she will have a record of the occasion, who attended, etc. Locate a table on which to place the Bible and the binder.

7. Locate another table to use to make a display of reference materials such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, indexes, etc.

8. Make a poster with the words *For Future Reference*. Place this poster on the wall above the display table.

9. Consider having light refreshments. Remember that graduates are usually (1) *always dieting*; (2) have been snacking while studying for exams, etc.; and/or (3) have been attending graduation dinners/banquets/parties. If you do have refreshments, plan to serve them after the Bible has been presented.

Ceremony

Speaker 1: We are here today to present (graduate) with a Bible, as a token of congratulations upon her graduation from college. As her friends, we want to wish her the best for the future. (Graduate), during your college years you have probably used many reference materials—encyclopedias, indexes, dictionaries, bibliographies—to help you write term papers, understand textbook and lectures, and supplement class notes.

For a time, you are through with those required courses that compelled you to search for these reference materials (and you may be saying good riddance!). But you will need references in your daily life, no matter what your plans—a career, marriage, graduate schools, or a combination of these. In any future endeavors, you can use this Bible as an excellent reference material. The following verses are examples of how the Bible speaks to your particular circumstances.

(The following verses are for someone entering graduate school [in a law, medical, or master's program]; someone entering a teaching

profession; or someone who is job hunting. If these do not apply to the graduate you are honoring, you can supply verses of your own choosing.)

(For someone entering graduate school):

Speaker 2: Second Timothy 2:15 (KJV) says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Speaker 3: Proverbs 1:5,7 (KJV) says, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels...The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

Speaker 4: First Corinthians 13:2 (KJV) says, "And though I...understand all mysteries, and all knowledge...and have not charity, I am nothing."

(For graduates entering teaching profession):

Speaker 2: Proverbs 22:6 (KJV) says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Speaker 3: Mark 10:14 (KJV) says, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

Speaker 4: Proverbs 9:9 (KJV) says, "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

(For graduates who are job hunting):

Speaker 2: First Thessalonians 4:11 (KJV) says, "And that ye study...to do your own business, and to work with your own hands."

Speaker 3: Psalm 104:23 (KJV) says, "Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until evening."

Speaker 4: Matthew 6:33 (KJV) says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God...and all these things shall be added unto you."

Speaker 5: (Graduate), these verses point out how the Bible can be used as a reference material for any life situation, if we are willing to study it. At this time, we want to present you with a Bible. As you graduate from college and enter a different stage in your life, may you always look to God to direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV) says, "Trust the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own

understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." God had directed you so far. You have completed high school and now college, but you still may be confused about what God wants you to do. Always be open to His leadership in your life. Always be open to letting Him change the path you are on. Always let the Bible be your primary reference source.

No matter what path you have chose, we pray that you will serve God. Let us close by praying for God's direction in your life now and in the future.