

COLLEGE AND CAREER STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Stages of Student Development III

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1. Physical

- Mature adults in best physical condition of life
 - Can easily be drawn into a self-focused, please-me lifestyle
 - Maintain a Christ-first focus in all of life teaching
- Dating and sexual desires intense and culture promoting heavily
 - Give them biblical reasons to stay pure
 - Give them outlets for dating in a Christ honoring way
- Start working and carrying heavier life-load
 - Teach balance, rest, and recreation

Key Physical Characteristic: Full adult desires sexually

2. Mental

- Often overloaded by the new burdens of adulthood
 - Encourage a daily renewing walk with God
 - Be available to talk and encourage
 - Be sensitive to signs of discouragement
- New understanding and appreciation of the value of education
 - Fill your teaching with powerful truth
 - Create mentoring times to answer questions and pass along knowledge
- Experiencing the personal impact of rookie decisions
 - Encourage and teach the acceptance of responsibility
 - Equip to make decisions biblically
 - Stress the importance of continual faith and dependence upon God
- Tend to let emotions rule over head knowledge
 - Teach Spirit-led life
 - Teach accountability and purity
 - Teach how to deal with discouragement and emotional set backs

Key Mental Characteristic: Rookie Decision Making Skills, Pride

3. Social

- Busy with school and work, relationships take a back seat
 - Teach connectedness with spiritual leaders
 - Teach connectedness with godly friends
 - Teach a personal walk with Christ daily
- Often desperate to date and fall in love
 - Teach becoming the right person before finding the right person
 - Teach the ups and downs of dating
 - Encourage them through the “downs”
 - Equip them for the “ups” to stay pure and right
- Long for good friendships and adult relationships
 - Teach a church-based hub of friends
 - Teach how to stand for Christ in the world
 - Expose the lies of pop-culture regarding friends and romance
- Tend to be discouraged with trying to find their place in society and life
 - Teach how to follow God in faith
 - Support them in career and life decisions
 - Help them see God’s hand in circumstances
 - Help them understand God’s plan to prepare them
- Tend to be self-centered and want immediate gratification
 - Teach death to self and death of self-will
 - Teach a life of service to Christ and others

Key Social Characteristic: Self-Centered, Desperate for Love

4. Emotional

- Emotions still intense (crushes, jealousy, envy)
 - Don’t expect adult stability
 - More ability to control emotions
 - Be sure they have someone to vent to
 - We need to be competent counselors
 - May be moody (hold emotions in)
 - Venting through talking or recreation
 - Want security (like going steady)
 - Show them their worth in God’s plan
 - Want a thrill
 - Provide exciting activities
 - Show them that serving Christ is the most exciting thing to do
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Key Emotional Characteristic: Impatient and Easily Discouraged

5. Spiritual

- Religion is practical
 - Teach a personal, vital relationship with God
 - Focus on practical application
- Religion is one of relationships
 - Help them anchor into the family of God
 - Be available and stay close to them
- Religion is immediately gratifying
 - Teach patience and waiting on God
 - Teach a lifetime of Christian growth and journeying

Key Spiritual Characteristics: Impatience, Tempted to Put God on Hold

