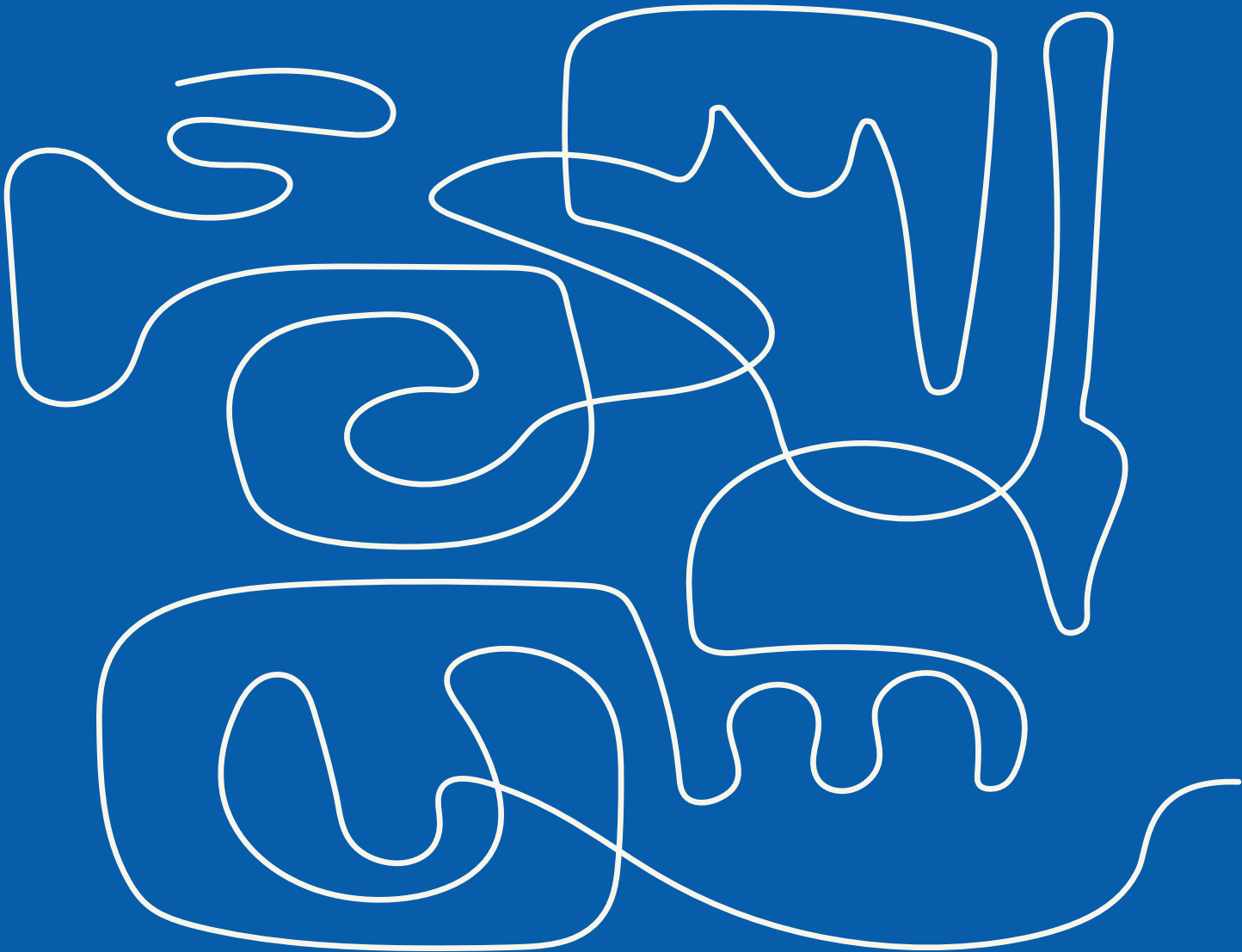


In Flux



PREPARING FOR LIFE BEYOND COLLEGE

FOCUS

In Flux is a four week series focused on equipping new and recent graduates for the pending transition away from college. Participants are prepared for life after graduation as they celebrate their journeys and explore ideas, concepts, language, and resources. The heart is for them to walk forward with confidence with a deeper understanding of God's wisdom and love. The hope is to uncover a sense of calling to take part in God's mission — to redeem and renew all of creation.

FRAMEWORK

The series is separated into four gatherings following a sequential framework. Participants commit to all four gatherings, while leaving room to come to as many as they can. The sequential gatherings are as follows:

1. CELEBRATING YOUR JOURNEY & ENTERING GOD'S STORY
2. NAVIGATING TRANSITION & OWNING SPIRITUAL FORMATION
3. ESTABLISHING A THEOLOGY OF WORK & CULTIVATING A KINGDOM VISION
4. CREATING CULTURE & GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS

001

CELEBRATING YOUR JOURNEY
& ENTERING GOD'S STORY



CELEBRATING YOUR JOURNEY

Begin the journey forward by looking back.

It's important to take time to celebrate what God has done in your life during the last four or five years, and acknowledge what you've been entrusted with as you reach this educational milestone.

Your story is full of experiences, relationships, and opportunities for growth. These all contribute to the formation of your unique self. Celebrating the highlights, recognizing the hardships, and reflecting on God's redemptive purposes is a rewarding way to discover how you are continually being shaped.

In this gathering you'll have the opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate what God has done.

EXERCISE: CREATING "COLLEGE LIFE MAPS"

The purpose of this time is to help participants visualize how they have been blessed and entrusted with much during this season of their lives. (Materials needed: 3 different colors of small sticky notes: red, blue, yellow; large posterboards, pens).

Question: What has most influenced or shaped you during your time in college?

Step 1: Take time to brainstorm various people, events and experiences, and circumstances on three different colored sticky notes and place them on a piece of paper.

Think through the following:

- People (friends, family members, classmates, peers, mentors, pastors, etc...) (Red)
- Events/Circumstances (conferences/retreats, summer missions, Bible studies, outreaches, roommate trips, etc.) (Blue)
- Development/Skills (training you have received) (Yellow)

Step 2: If you want to go a step further, delineate which have been positive and which have been painful or hurtful. God uses all of our life experiences in our formation. Draw a line through the middle of the page, placing positive sticky notes above the line and painful ones below.

Step 3: Arrange the notes in chronological order.

Step 4: Use a green sticky note to write down any key takeaways or landmark lessons you've had during your time in college that you want to recall and remember. These could represent what you learned about yourself, God, or the world.

Step 5: Share about your timeline in groups of 3.



ENTERING INTO GOD'S STORY

Stories are powerful.

Stories provide us meaning and purpose. Stories give us a sense of direction for our life. Stories tell us where we come from and who we are, our identity.

If you don't know what story you are participating in, or the trajectory of it, making decisions and planning for the future can become confusing and even paralyzing.

Developing our understanding of the bigger story, God's story, provides us direction so we can align our lives with him. It gives us vision to see where we are going in order to navigate the world. With better clarity, we make better decisions.

The prevailing contemporary belief is that you are to go and create your own sense of identity, meaning, and purpose in the world. In contrast, the Christian's true sense of identity, meaning, purpose, and calling is found within the greater story of God at work in the world.

This gathering aims to broaden your understanding of the grand narrative of Scripture — what God *has* done, *is* doing, and *will* do — and how you can take part in gospel renewal in the here and now.

TEACH FOUR CHAPTER STORYLINE FRAMEWORK

Read *The Kingdom Story* (essay by Denver Leadership Circle) and/or watch "The Big Story" with Amy Sherman (from Flourish San Diego).

See page 3 for the QR code for supporting articles, videos and resources.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What narrative of Scripture did you grow up with, or perhaps understand at the moment? Which of the “chapters” are emphasized more?
- What are the implications of the “Four Chapter Storyline” of God’s mission in the world? How does it reframe the way we think about God, humanity, the church, and God’s redemptive purposes?
- If God’s Story ends with the renewal of all things, what is our part? (Proverbs 11:10, Jeremiah 29:6-7)
- What might flourishing in our relationships and communities look like in light of this?

Closing Question: What stood out to you tonight? What is something you want to remember? If willing, perhaps share with a friend or two.



COMMISSIONING/ WRAP UP

Thank everyone for carving out time for these gatherings. Invite those staying in your area to stay connected (give some tangible ideas of what this could look like). Connect those going elsewhere to Cru City, Embark Staff, or other known networks. List of cities and staff can be found at cru.org/embark.

Published by CruPress®

Cru-Cru Store

100 Lake Hart Dr., #4100

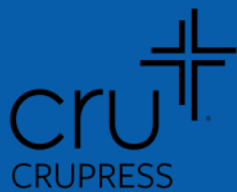
Orlando, FL 32832

Design and Layout by Ariel Ma

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ISBN: 978-1-57334-243-8



Created and Written by Allison & Joe Priola | Edited by Jon Eastwood & Jesse Madera

A Resource Developed by Cru City - Cru.org/embark