

Would Jesus  
Have Joined  
A  
Fraternity?

A compilation of various  
articles

By:  
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## Forward

In the fall of 2014, I teamed up with some of the writers at Cru.org and released an article entitled, “Would Jesus Have Joined a Fraternity?”. I did so to promote a website I was building designed to train students and campus ministers around the nation in ministering to men and women in Greek chapters: Greeklegacy.org. I had no idea how popular and controversial title would be. Around 10,000 people read the article the day it went public. And over the next three weeks, around 43,000 would read the article. The writers at Cru.org would later tell me that this article had the most views ever second only to the article defending why we changed our name from Campus Crusade for Christ to “Cru”.

I want to be up front that I did not write the article a to try to defend the idea that Jesus would have joined any particular Greek chapter but simply that He would have spent time being around lost people. I think fraternities and sororities are one of the best places to minister to lost people who will go on to influence our nation and the world.

### **Thinking of rushing a Greek Chapter or are you already in a Greek Chapter?**

If you are considering going through rush and joining a Greek chapter, and you call yourself a follower of Christ, I think these articles will be great for you to read and consider my thoughts. If you are already in a chapter, and trying to walk with Christ as well, I would challenge you to read and consider what I say. Either way, it is my prayer that you would join with me in ministering to one of the most influential groups on the college campus today: Greeks.

Isaac Jenkins

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ΣΧ house at the University of Arkansas

# 1

## Would Jesus Have Joined a Fraternity?

People often ask me where my office is on the campus of Ole Miss, and I tell them my office is the Greek system here. We have some of the biggest fraternities in the nation. For example, the Kappa Alpha house had over 100 pledges last fall, making it at that time the biggest chapter in the nation. Also at Ole Miss the Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Nu, Sigma Chi and Alpha Tau Omega houses also have the biggest chapters in the nation.

We've got one of the biggest Greek systems in the country here, and my question is this: "Would Jesus have associated with these guys?"

To start, let's look at Matthew 9: 9-12.

*"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.*

*While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

*On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."*

There's a couple different people in this story: Jesus, the Pharisees, Matthew, his friends and all these sinners, and then the disciples. The room is crowded with sinners, and the Pharisees can't even walk inside the room or they will be declared ceremonially unclean. So they're probably outside the room, and Jesus is sitting at the table hanging out with these "sinful people" and all of a sudden, He stops, because He discerns what the Pharisees are saying, and that's when He says, "those who are well have no need of a physician, but it's those who are sick," and then He goes right back to talking with these people.

I think Jesus would spend most of his time with the lost, and the Greek system is a great place for you to spend your time.

### **"A Drunkard and a Glutton"**

Look at Matthew 11:19. Jesus says, "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, look at Him, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners."

Why would they call him a drunkard and a glutton?

Because he was spending all of His time with the lost over at these parties.

Now Jesus may not have even drank wine at all, but the fact that He was simply associating with these people gave Him a bad reputation with the Pharisees.

I've been in the Greek system for 29 years, this is my 21<sup>st</sup> year at Ole Miss, and to be honest, I think a lot of Christians spend their time looking more like the Pharisees than Jesus.

### **For Students and Campus Ministers**

If you're in **high school** and you're thinking about going to college and you're a Christian, I would love for you to really pray about maybe joining a fraternity or sorority to have an influence, to make a difference for Christ.

If you're a **freshman**, and you've pledged a house, maybe it's not the house or the chapter you wanted to be a part of, remember, you're not the one who gets yourself into a fraternity, it's not your looks or who you know – it's God. If you're a **junior or senior** and you're starting to get caught up your resume, or your girlfriend or boyfriend. I would challenge you to think, "why are you in that house?" Never again in the rest of your life will you know so many people who will know you, and will look up to and respect you.

My feeling is that you need to be living in the house. You need to be eating all your meals in the house. I lived in the fraternity house for two years when I was at Arkansas, and those were some of the highlights of my life. I went to every chapter meeting, every party, I was right there, so that I earned the right to stand up in chapter and say what I wanted to say, or met with the pledges.

The key is being consistent. Yeah, you make mistakes, I've made mistakes, but if you're consistent over the long haul, the Lord can really use you in the Greek system. This is a huge group of people who need to know about the Lord.

If you're a **campus minister**, I want you to really think about going to these places, praying for them. I'm going to have all kinds of videos on the website [greeklegacy.org](http://greeklegacy.org) to train you and you can contact me through [email](mailto:). I want to be a resource for you so that we can reach every fraternity and sorority guy and girl with the gospel around the nation.

### **What about the orphans and widows?**

This is my 25<sup>th</sup> year in full-time ministry, and at times I've really struggled with why I'm reaching these guys and girls. I think, *what about the orphans and widows?*

My sister is a missionary in Honduras and I've gone there twice and helped her. She literally works with the orphans, the outcasts, the street kids, and I've struggled with *God, why have you called me to be here with these guys?*

In Revelation 3:17, Jesus is talking to the church at Laodicea, but He's really talking to the church of the future and to people who could be your typical fraternity or sorority guy and girl.

"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

He's saying, "You think you've got it all together? You don't realize that you are miserable, wretched, poor, blind and naked."

**Will you pray for the Greek system?**

I would challenge you to join with me and pray for the Greek system. Pray for the Greek system on your campus. Pray for the fraternity or sorority that God may be calling you to be a part of.

I don't think God wants all the Christians to be together, and He sure doesn't want to leave your junior and senior year and go off and create your own holy huddle. You need to be right here, active, you need to be the officers, you need to be the chaplain, you need to be the pledge trainer. There might not be another time in your life when you know so many other people who need the gospel.

\*Find out more at [greeklegacy.org](http://greeklegacy.org).



One  $\Sigma$ N had a vision to bring Greeks together for a night of prayer and worship and had over 1,000 show up at his fraternity.

## 2

### **Should you pledge a Christian fraternity or a traditional fraternity with Christian values?**

Let me first start by clarifying the differences between the two types of fraternities I'm talking about:

A Christian fraternity is a fraternity that 100% Christian in everything they stand for. They intentionally recruit Christians. Their chapter meetings often contain devotions out of the Bible and their pledgship is centered around learning the Bible and being discipled by older brothers. These types of fraternities do not usually allow



alcohol at their parties. Christian fraternities are not on every major college campus and tend to be smaller than the traditional frats. BYX (Brothers Under Christ) is largest of these types of frats in the US. It was founded at the University of Texas in 1985 and is on 30 or so campuses around the nation.

When I say "traditional" fraternities I am referring to fraternities like  $\Sigma X$ ,  $\Sigma AE$  and  $\Phi \Delta \Theta$ . They recruit all types of guys. Some of the men may be Christians but some may not. For example, I am a  $\Sigma X$  and you only have to believe in God to join our fraternity. Also, one of our mottos is that we pledge men "with deferent temperaments, talents and conviction". Just like many Ivy League schools were started as Christian universities, most traditional fraternities were started by Christians as well.

As I said, Christian fraternities usually do not serve alcohol at their parties, whereas the traditional fraternities completely run their whole party around alcohol. To be honest, Traditional fraternities can some times look more like the movie "Animal House" in the way they function. But there is usually a small contingent of followers of Christ in the traditional fraternities.

### **So which fraternity is the best for you?**

If you are a young believer and you struggled with certain things that are going to be celebrated in fraternities, you might want to consider a Christian fraternity. Erik was highly involved in  $K \Phi E$  while he attended the University of Florida and says, "There's a lot of good that can come from being in a Christian fraternity. There's a ton of opportunity for discipleship: both for you to lead and to be led. From your first days as a pledge you'll see tremendous growth in your faith. The biggest problem that I tend to see in Christian fraternities is that there isn't always a lot of good

opportunity for outreach. I know that's something we've been working on this past year and are continuing to figure out." If you choose to pledge a Christian frat, I highly suggest that you have some sort of ministry outlet on campus or at a youth group in a local Church.

If you are a follower of Christ and feel that you can handle the temptations associated with a traditional frat, I highly recommend pledging the traditional fraternities because that's where you could have your biggest influence. You could influence hundreds of guys who do not know Christ.

1½ years ago I, with the help of Cru, put an article online entitled "Would Jesus have joined a fraternity?" 10,000 read the article the first day and around 45,000 read it the following few weeks. I think most people who read that article think fraternities are "going to hell" and were probably fascinated that I would even write about the idea of Jesus hanging out with frat guys. Remember that there may never be another time for the rest of your life that you could influence so many guys who don't know the Lord and who will be watching you. I highly recommend it for every believer that feels like he is maturing in Christ to pledge a traditional fraternity. Although my fraternity is not outwardly Christian, we, along with most traditional fraternities, have lots of scripture quoted in our rituals. Two of our seven founders were pastors. But that's pretty common with most of the traditional fraternities. They started like many universities in America as Christ-centered but now or more alcohol and party centered.

I would say at least half to two thirds of your given fraternity is more concerned about parties and alcohol than anything having to do with the church. If someone pledges a Christian fraternity and just spends their time with their

brothers all the time it seems to me like that would be hanging out as a monastery, and I don't think monasteries are meant to be long term, so I would highly suggest you stepping out and finding another place to do ministry on campus.

What about hazing? In most fraternities, hazing is becoming a thing of the past. For instance, Sigma Chi nationals have instituted a zero tolerance for hazing and have suspended the charters of five rather large chapters in just the past year and a half. Even though I pledged 31 years ago and hazing at that time was rampant, no one ever tried to get me to do something that went against my convictions. And with the legal ramifications that come along with hazing, it really is becoming a thing of the past. Also pledgeship used to be around six months but has been cut down to only around 8 weeks on most campuses.

Regardless of which fraternity you choose to join, I would encourage you to be the most active person in your chapter. I would attend every chapter meeting and eat every meal at the house, with the goal of getting to share the Gospel to those who do not know Christ or being an influence on the younger Christians. Also, remember wherever you choose to pledge, you need accountability with other Christians who can help you stay strong and grow in your faith. Lone Ranger Christians don't stand much of a chance to do well if they don't seek out Christian fellowship from within or outside of the fraternity.



Coed freshman bible studies around the Greek system at Ole Miss

### 3

## **Can I Really Follow Christ and Be Active in a Fraternity or Sorority?**

Are you currently in a fraternity or sorority and have considered dropping out because you think your chapter goes against your Christian values? Or perhaps are you are thinking of going inactive because it would be much easier to minister to another group on campus or out in the community? PLEASE read through the next few pages and prayerfully consider what you read.

Around a year ago, a chaplain at one of the biggest fraternities on his campus confided in me what had happened at his chapter meeting the night before. He had written a devotion and had planned on sharing it at the meeting, but just as the meeting was

about to start, things went south quickly. The chapter advisor stood up and said, "I want to hear some stories of your sexual exploits from this past weekend at formal!" With that challenge, guy after guy began to stand up and tell stories that remind me of the passage in Ephesians 5 where Paul is confronting sexual immorality and says in verse 12, "For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret." He obviously did not get to share his devo for that week. Before he could say another word I said, "And that is exactly why you need to be active in your chapter!" I went on to remind him that he was a part of one of the biggest and best fraternities on his campus. I encouraged him from Galatians 6:9 that says, "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." I challenged him to not give up on his chapter but to continue to go to every chapter meeting with the goal of giving a devotional each week. I also reminded him that I chose to live in my fraternity house as a senior just to be around the guys so that I could minister to as many as possible. By the end of my senior year, I had seen at least three guys trust Christ with me that year and two of them went on to serve the Lord in full time ministry.



The three guys to the left trusted Christ my senior year, and two of them went into full time ministry. Hunter (second from left) ended up being the Cru director back at the University of Arkansas and ministered in our fraternity for seven years.

If the story I just shared describes you and the way the majority of the guys in your chapter live and act, I want to encourage you with a few thoughts:

First of all, if you are a follower of Christ, it is imperative that you get involved in a local church. I would also encourage you to get involved with a local campus ministry as well. You need the Christian fellowship. The Christian life was never meant to be lived by lone ranger Christians. If you are going to be living in a dark and often hostile environment then I would be involved in both.

Also seek out a few people either in your church or campus ministry whom you can confide in and be honest with. These need to be people that can keep you accountable. I was lucky to have a pledge brother that was also pursuing the Lord, and he was a huge encouragement to me as we both ministered along side each other in the house.

Be the most active person in your chapter! Eat your meals at the house (or wherever the actives eat together the most). Spend time around the chapter, and attend every chapter meeting. You probably have heard the expression, "They don't care how much you know until they know that you care." Some of my pledge brothers used to call me "Active Ike," and I didn't mind; I even considered it a compliment because that was my goal: to be with them a lot! I played intramurals with the guys and took younger guys hunting. I made my fraternity house my sole place of ministry. Every once in a while I would serve as the substitute house boy at the Kappa Kappa Gamma house because they had better food and their girls were much better looking than my fellow Sigma Chi's, but I still felt I needed to eat the majority of my meals with my brothers in my chapter.

I went to every party we had, but I chose not to drink alcohol at the house even when I was 21. That's really up to you, but I just didn't want to do anything that may cause someone else to stumble. If an active saw me at the party with a beer, he wouldn't know if it was my first or fifth. This topic is hotly debated amongst Christians, but the bottom line is this: be careful and strive to live a life above reproach at the house.

Actively pray for laborers. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would awaken men or women in the house to the Gospel and pray that they would trust Christ and follow Him. In John 4:35, Jesus says, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." I believe there are men or women living around you right now in whom the Lord is preparing their hearts to receive them. All you need to do is look around you and trust Him for opportunities. Years ago a man named Henry Blackaby wrote a bible study book entitled *Experiencing God*. One of his main points was that God IS working around you, all you need to do is look around you and join with Him in what He is doing.

Finally, if you are still struggling with whether Jesus would want you to be around so many "sinners", then please Google my article on line entitled, "Would Jesus Have Joined a Fraternity?" and read it. He might not have actually joined a group, but he would have spent his time around the lost ministering to them.

Having  
Lunch with  
two senior  
ΣN's who  
have invested  
a lot of time  
back into  
their  
fraternity



Picture by Ted Wilcox

## 4

### **Ministering in Your Chapter: It's Not About You!**

#### **1. You Are the Insider**

You may have heard the saying, “You may be the only Bible they will ever see.” This means we need people living out the gospel in fraternities and sororities. You are an insider; I am an outsider. I can come meet with your officers and speak to your pledges about spiritual things and even start a Bible study but I can never gain quite the respect you can have because you are there with them and living amongst them. In Matthew 9, we read about the calling of Matthew to become one of Jesus’ disciples. Verse 10 records that Jesus went to Matthew’s house and dined with “sinners”. In Mathew 11:19, Jesus says that people say he is a “glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” I believe Jesus’ opponents said



this about him because he spent time with the lost. He did not just occasionally show up and give a sermon but he ate with the lost and spent time with them.

You need to be the most active person in your chapter. Eat every meal at the house, attend every chapter meeting and go to the parties. Be with your brothers and sisters! Since Jesus was perfect, he would have known how long to stay at the parties. We all know that after a certain time, there can be things that go on that are not at all holy, so it's important to know when to leave. Not too long ago I had a chaplain share an experience he had in his chapter recently that is all too frequent in fraternities. He said that he went to chapter planning on sharing devotion but gave up when the head advisor stood up and said, "I want to hear about your sexual escapades from formal this past weekend!" For the next 30-45 minutes, my friend had to listen to things shared that depict what Paul says in Ephesians 5:12: "For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret." After he finished his descriptions of the chapter meeting, I immediately said to him, "That's why you have to be active in your chapter! They need you to be there to be a light in a dark place!" He is still active in that chapter and I thank God for men like him.

## **2. For Such a Time as This**

In the book of Esther, it seemed like the Jews would be destroyed. At that moment, Mordecai sent a note to Queen Esther, who was Jewish.

In Chapter 4:13-17 we read:

<sup>13</sup>“[Mordecai] sent back this answer: ‘Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. <sup>14</sup>For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?’ <sup>15</sup>Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup>‘Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.’ <sup>17</sup>So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.”

What if you actually had nothing to do with you being a ΣX or XΩ? What if God was the one who placed you where you are for such a time as now? If you are a follower of Christ, He is the one who has placed you where you are. You are a ΣAE or a ΔΔΔ for a reason. If you think you got a bid to that chapter because of who you knew, or how you look, or what you wear, you are forgetting that it all was a part of God's greater plan to reach the actives around you who do not know Christ. I have learned from experience that if you do not step up and become a light in your chapter, God will use someone else. He may raise up someone within your chapter or He may bring someone in from the outside –and they may not even be Greek. In every chapter there are people who He is drawing to

Himself and He is calling for faithful men and women to join with Him in drawing men and women to Himself. In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul is charging the church to step up and do the same:

“<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

### **3. It is Worth It!**

There are at least two things you are saving people from. First, if you introduce them to Christ, you are saving them from an eternity of being away from God's presence. Also by introducing them to Christ and calling them to live holy lives, you can spare them a life of pain resulting from the consequences of living an unholy life. When I speak to pledge classes about what it looks like to be a man, I always say, “If you act like Hell and live like Hell, one day you will wonder why your life as turned out to be a living Hell.” Our communities are full of former Greeks who cared little for godly living in college and are now paying a severe price for it with broken marriages and regrets about their past.

#### **4. Don't Be a Lone Ranger**

Get involved in a local church and a local campus ministry.

If you do not get involved with at least one and hopefully both, you have very little chance of maintaining your light in this dark place. There is a high probability that you will either give in to temptation and blend in with everyone else or become a self-appointed Pharisee, who justifies why you need to leave your chapter for something or someone else.

And just a side note: In my 29 years of working in the Greek system, I have only met one couple that met in a bar.

My point is that your chances of meeting a godly spouse are far greater if you actually get involved in the local church and or a campus ministry.

#### **5. It's Not About You!**

*The Purpose Driven Life* has become the second most-translated book in the world, next to the Bible, and has sold more than 30 million copies. The opening sentence in the book says, "It's not about you!" When you first went through rush and joined a fraternity or sorority, you initially did it because maybe you wanted to meet people or experience Greek life. Those reasons are good, but if you are a follower of Christ, then the older you get, the less you should be looking for how much you can get out of your chapter, and the more you should be looking for how much you can give away of yourself and the Gospel to others.

I would guess that only 1 in 100 followers of Christ stay involved in their chapters. One main reason for this is that the older you get the less the chapter has to offer you. But it

is not about you! Yes, as an upperclassman you may have a boyfriend or girlfriend, and you now have a set major, and the chapter really seems like it has little to offer you. But your junior year and especially your senior year can be the most fruitful years of your life so far if you hang in there and stay active in your house.

With all the persecutions the early church had to go through, Paul wrote several words of encouragement. In Galatians 6:9 we read, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

You can launch a ministry of evangelism in your chapter that will last for decades. I know because it happened to me. When I graduated I only had around 3-4 faithful guys whom I had poured into but they in turn discipled a few who discipled a few. When I was doing research for my book *Leaving a Legacy in Your Fraternity or Sorority*, I found out that my discipleship chain in ΣΧ had gone on for over 18 generations! At the end of the apostle Paul’s life, he similarly challenges Timothy to pour his life into other men: “And the things you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2. I would challenge you to take the time and read *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman. It is a masterpiece on the subject of pouring your life into others.

## **6. Be Honest**

Over the years, there have been a lot of people who have been burned by pastors or church-goers who portray an image that is not real: an image that makes it look like they have it all together. But we all know that is not real life. When you speak at chapter or lead a devotion or bible study, always be honest about your short comings and failures and you will gain the respect of the actives.

### **7. Who Will Be the Most Respected Person in Your Chapter?**

If you think about it, at the end of the day, the most respected people in the chapter are NOT the ones who drink the most and hook up the most. The most respected people are the ones who truly live out the life that our rituals call us to live. I was by no means perfect and made a lot of mistakes, but I tried to live out our creeds and standards to my best ability, and it turned out that when men in my chapter were struggling, they would come to me and want my advice. As I mentioned earlier, I lived in the house my senior year and I can remember at least 4 times that brothers came and sat on my couch and opened up and wanted advice on their life. I had the honor of introducing many of them to Christ.

One Monday night I decided share the Gospel at one of my last chapter meetings. I knew I was graduating soon and would move into a mission field somewhere far away from Fayetteville, Arkansas. I stood up and read Matthew 7:21-23, which says: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who

does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" I went on to explain that just because they had made sacred vows to our fraternity that did not make them Christians. They had to call upon the name of the Lord to be saved. Three weeks later, I was at my last chapter meeting as a Sigma Chi at the Uof A. During the last chapter meeting, they give out an award called the Senior Key Award. It goes to the active that was the most respected senior that year. Usually this would go to the president or someone who had served in several leadership positions, and yet when they called out the name of this person, it was I! You would have thought that after my devotion from three weeks earlier, I would have been last on the list, but this proves that although many of the actives (and maybe even most) did not necessarily agree with what I said, they could not help but agree that I loved my chapter and my brothers. As Winston Churchill once said, "Never give up!"

**Further Reading:**

Passages that deal with gray areas I may deal with in the house:

Romans 14:14-23; Philippians 4:8; 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

I don't want to be doing anything that could disqualify me from keeping the respect of my brothers: I Corinthians 9:22-27.

# 5

## How I shared the Gospel with My Fellow Frat Stars in College

By Isaac Jenkins

### Trusting the Lord for Hundreds

Several years ago, I read the biography of an American sniper in the Vietnam War that had 105 confirmed kills. He was a good soldier doing his duty, and I began to wonder what if God could use me to lead 105 men to Christ. I believe this guy was a great soldier and served his country, but when I finished the book, I began to think that if he could take 105 men from life to death, what if I could take 105 men from death to eternal life? Then a few years ago I read a book entitled *American Sniper* about a guy named Chris Kyle who had 165 confirmed kills. And just last month I read an article in *World War II Magazine* about a Russian sniper who had 245 confirmed kills! And what's crazy is that, with that many kills, he is actually only 10th on the list of best snipers of all time with 450 kills being the record.

My point is you shouldn't limit God in thinking that you can lead a few people to Christ, when what if He could use you to lead hundreds from death to life? Being in a fraternity or sorority gives you the opportunity to do just that!

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9: <sup>19</sup>“Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ... <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”

Paul would do whatever it takes to reach people for the Gospel. What are you willing to do? What if you began to see your chapter as a huge mission field? Jesus says in John 4:35, “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.” In other words, Jesus is saying there are people around you right now that



are ready to trust in Christ, you just need to tell them the good news.

Saint Francis of Assisi is often credited with a quote (although many scholars say that it is not found in any of his writings) that says, "Share the Gospel often and if need be use words." But when it comes to being active in Greek life, if all you do is live a holy and pleasing life in your chapter and say nothing, what will people think they need to do to go to heaven? Be good like you. But you and I know that's not the gospel, and, if they are not followers of Christ, they do not have the power within them to even do good! Sometimes they might even get jealous and frustrated by observing your life and knowing that they do not have the strength or power to do good.

It has been my experience ministering to Greeks in the South that most people believe all they need to do to be acceptable to a holy God is to act nice and have better morals than the people around them. But Romans 3:11 says, "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." I challenge you to consider praying for your pledge brothers and sisters and the actives in your chapter and look for ways to take the initiative to share the gospel.

A couple of weeks ago I got a phone call from a good friend of mine, Craig, who recently moved to Wichita, Kansas. Craig called and wanted to let me know he had just taken his kids to Chuck-E-Cheese's, and while his kids were playing the games, he met a guy named Ryan. It wasn't long before they both realized they had both gone to Ole Miss and had many of the same friends. Ryan then asked Craig if he knew a guy named Isaac Jenkins. Craig replied that he worked with me with Cru. Ryan went on to say that 18 years ago, while he was a Sigma Nu pledge, I had met with him. He said that at the beginning of our conversation that I had asked him that if he were to die tonight how sure would he be that he would go to heaven? He said his response was 75%, and I responded with a let's make it 100%! He went on to say that he trusted Christ with me that day and now he's raising a godly family.

When you are a part of leading someone to Christ EVERYTHING changes for that person. Not only where

they will spend eternity, but things like they type of person they will date, how they will raise their kids, and maybe even the type of job they will choose. It is truly amazing and honoring to be a small part of that huge process! If my only reward in heaven one day is getting to high five or shake hands with the people that I had the honor of introducing to Christ, it will be deeply fulfilling.

So how did I lead people to Christ in college? During Christmas break of my freshman year, I was convicted in that I had not really shared Christ with any of my pledge brothers. At the University of Arkansas we had rush in the fall and spring so I knew we would soon have a new group of pledges. Once rush was over and they began having pledge meetings, I decided to speak at the second pledge meeting. Here is what I did:

1. I gave about a 5 to 10 minute testimony on how I had come to trust in Christ .
2. I would ask them a question: "If you were to die tonight, on a scale of 1 -100, how sure would you be that you would go to heaven?" Next I would have them write it down on a 3 by 5 card along with any questions they had for me.
3. I would put the cards in order with the guys who felt less sure of their salvation on top of the stack and follow them up first.
4. I would also start a freshman bible study. You might even consider doing a 3-4 week coed study with another sorority to help get guys to the study. If your fraternity requires each pledge to get your signature, I tell them I will give it to them if they come to the study at least one time.

You may have heard this statement: "They don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." I believe it to be a good statement. So, be the most active person in your chapter! As my heart for the lost guys in my chapter grew, I made it my goal to be the most active member in my chapter. I would eat all my meals at the house and attend every chapter meeting. We did have a Chaplain but by my junior year, I kind of assumed that role. Instead of carrying a Bible to chapter meeting I would give devotions by simply reading out of our ritual book. Most Greek chapters are founded on Christian principles, so there is a good chance that your ritual book is full of Scripture and Christian principles.

When I would meet with a pledge for the first time there were a few things I would ask:

Tell me a little about your background. Where are you from? What denomination did you grow up in? Were you very active in going to church? This gives me an idea of how much they know or do not know about the Gospel.

The next question I always ask is, "So based on everything you just told me about your life, if you were to die tonight, on a scale from 1 to 100, how sure are you that you would go to heaven if you died tonight with 100 being that you are 100% positive?" Very few guys ever tell me they feel confident.

Another question I may ask is, "If you were to stand before God and He was to ask you why He should let you into His kingdom, what would you say?" Their answer gives me a good idea what they are trusting in for their salvation.

Most of the time I then pull out the Four Spiritual Laws and read through it, and I have seen a lot of guys trust Christ over the years with it. But if I don't have it with me, I will use my bible and go through the four points and look up the scriptures that go along with each point. Also you can download the app called "God Tools" and it has a version of the Knowing God Personally that you can show a friend. It also has articles talking about knowing Christ. Some of my friends through the training of the ministry Student Mobilization use what is called the bridge diagram. It is a great way to share the Gospel using Romans 6:8.

The reason I like using the Four Laws or Knowing God Personally is that it helps keep me stay on track and it also helps me bring them to the point of decision. Every time I share the Gospel with a guy, I will close with a few questions:

Based on everything we have talked about today, who would you say that you are trusting in to save you? Christ or your good works? Usually I will not make then answer the question but will immediately go to my next question: "If you would like to be 100% sure you are in Christ, when do you think would be a good time to make this decision?" If they say they really want to be 100% now then I give them a few options by saying:

"We can pray together right now and Ill lead you in praying to trust in Christ or you can pray silently or you can think

about what we have talked about today and maybe we can meet up again next week, but let me be honest in saying that I think this is the most important decision you will ever make, and I would not put it off.”

I also helped oversee or lead an active Bible study in the house. We called it “BYOB” for bring your own bible. I recommend buying a bunch of bibles and putting them in a convenient part of the house. That way you are all reading out of the same translation. Also you may have an active show up who has very little knowledge of the bible so you will be able to tell them what page to turn to verses what book to look up. If you look online you can find bibles for as little as \$2 a copy.

One day I was eating lunch at the house when a younger active came and sat at the table with me. His name was Hunter Hall. He said that after the active Bible study the night before he had been so convicted for his need for Christ that he had gone down to our chapter room and gotten on his knees and prayed to trust in Christ! He went on to be one of the key spiritual leaders in the house after I graduated and served on staff with Cru for 10 years after college.

Ill close with two thoughts:

1. Over the last 31 years, I have been in fraternity houses at least twice a week over the course of each school year and yet I think I have seen a pastor in a frat house only once. YOU may be the only person they know who can lead them to Christ.
2. Remember if not you then who, and if not now then when?



Zac, on the right, trusted Christ with me last Spring. Most of all the things I shared with him in our multiple follow up appointments are in this chapter. Hamilton, on the right, is helping disciple Zac and help him grow in the Lord. Both are ATO's

## 6

### **How do I follow up a new follower of Christ?**

When I joined staff with Cru in 1990, they placed me at Auburn University. As soon as I arrived on campus I went straight into the Sigma Chi house and started a ministry with that chapter. Being a sig myself, it was really easy and natural. One of the first things I did was meet with the pledge trainer and schedule a time to speak to the pledge class. When I spoke to the pledges I passed out comment cards and immediately started calling them and setting up appointments.

I like to use the “Knowing God Personally” booklet written by Dr. Bill Bright, who founded

Cru, and saw several guys trust Christ within the first week of following up the pledges! I thought I was on the edge of being part of God doing a wonderful revival until I noticed the guys were quick to pray with me but slow to show up for the follow-up appointments. It wasn't long till I began figuring out that these guys were intimidated by me because I was only a few years older than them. I think I could have gotten them to pray to receive rocks if I had wanted to! Although I would not stop sharing the Gosple with pledges, I began to almost talk them out of trusting in Christ to make sure they were ready. I saw less decisions that way but I believe they were more serious decisions.

So what did I do with a guy once he made a decision to trust Christ? In other words, how did I follow up a new convert?

When ever I had a guy pray with me to trust Christ, I realized that although he "indicated a decision" to follow Christ, that did not mean that he was truly regenerated. I would not know for

sure until I had seen him grow and begin make Christ Lord of his life. There are several things I ask him to consider doing.

1. Find a church that teaches the Bible and start attending regularly to find fellowship with other Christians. I'll encourage them to go with me and I'll take them to my church.
2. If they are in college, I encourage them to get involved in a local campus ministry and go to the Bible study that hopefully is meeting at their fraternity chapter.
3. Consider buying a Bible. I even suggest buying a study Bible. Of course I point out that the writing on the top is God's inspired Word and the writing at the bottom is the words of men who are very wise and can give clarity to God's Word. I personally encourage them to buy a NASB or ESV -but that's just my preference. I let them borrow my Bible till they own one and I encourage them to start reading through the book of John and ask if we could meet on a regular bases to discuss what they are learning.
4. I also encourage them to buy a note book and take notes of what they are learning. I

**tell them that if they read something they will remember some of it but if they write it down then they will remember more. And if they share it with someone else then they will remember a majority of what they read.**

- 5. I love the foundation studies that Cru has put together and I have used them for 30+ years. They are a great resource to help them understand the basics like assurance of salvation; the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and how to pray.**

**You can order sets of the 4 foundation studies at:**

**<http://crustore.org/foundations.html>**



# 7

## What Will Your Legacy Be?

Recently a story of another jailbreak took the headlines by storm. This time it was “El Chapo” Guzman, a drug lord that had run a huge drug cartel out of Mexico. The headlines reported that he climbed through a small hole in his shower and walked a mile through a well-ventilated shaft that was dug laterally under the prison to freedom. At one time he was called “Enemy #1” by American authorities. The last time someone had the distinction of that title was Al Capone. Years ago, Guzman had been sent to prison and escaped only to be later caught and placed in a maximum security prison. But now he had escaped yet again.

Soon CNN posted an article on their website that claimed Guzman was believed to be the chief contributor of the drugs that flowed into the streets of Chicago. A retired Chicago detective, who had spent 60 years in law enforcement, was quoted saying: “Guzman is the reason you've got kids fighting over just one corner, and shooting each other.” The detective was also quoted as saying: “Guzman has hurt everyone -- the users in the city and the suburbs, the innocent bystanders, the kids who get wrapped up in gangs.” The article went on to say that Guzman “was born to a poor rural family and rose to lead a global network of smugglers, dealers, assassins, corrupt politicians and paid-off police.” The article also reported that Guzman had almost 150,000 street gang members who dealt heroin, cocaine and meth on the Chicago streets and that eighty-three percent of men arrested for crimes in Chicago in 2013 tested positive for drug use.

It's pretty obvious how Guzman will be remembered, but what about you? What will your legacy be? How will you be remembered by others? What will people say about you when you are gone?

Several years ago a friend of mine had breakfast with a wealthy Wal-Mart executive. The executive told my friend that although he had made a lot of money and had been very successful, he felt empty because he had done nothing of significance. The main reason many men walk away

from their families around midway through their lives is because they think the next wife or more money will fill the hole deep within them. Jesus has a lot to say about this and he makes one statement that is so important that three of the New Testament books record it:

“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.’”  
(Mark 8:34-38)

Jesus is being very clear that if you want to follow him you must completely die to yourself. Dead men have no rights. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a pastor in Germany during WW2. He is famous for saying: “When God calls a man, he bids him come and die.” He was killed in a concentration camp just weeks before Hitler committed suicide. Jim Elliot was a missionary to the Eca Indians back in the 1950’s and was killed by the very people he was trying to win to Christ. But he said: “He is no fool who gives up what he can not keep to gain what he will never lose.” The world would say that their early deaths were a waste but I believe Bonhoeffer and Elliot were two of the great men of their days, and they were willing to give all, even their own lives, for Christ. I believe that at the heart of living a life of significance is not living for yourself but giving your life for others.

Once again I will ask: What will your legacy be? How will people remember you? I can distinctly remember one night during my freshman year that I decided to make Christ not just my Savior, but Lord of my life. I resisted the temptation to go live with a lot of other Christian guys and instead spend most of my time investing in my fraternity. From an outsider’s point of view, there is not much about fraternity or sorority life that will help you grow in your relationship with Christ. But what if the reason you got a bid from your chapter was not because of your good looks, who you knew, or how you dress? What if God was the one

who placed you in your chapter? Some of the highlights of college for me were the spiritual conversations I had with guys late at night hanging around the house. Leading Bible studies, even if only a few guys showed up, was deeply fulfilling. Whether it was standing up in chapter, giving devotionals from our ritual, or praying for a brother that was going through a hard time, it was awesome.

Sure I took some heat from being one of the only outspoken Christians in the house. I had to drive an old van to school my sophomore year because I did not finish my freshman year with grades that satisfied my dad. The actives called it the “Jerusalem cruiser” and “Jesus bus” but this was very little persecution in light of the impact I was able to make on several of my brothers.

An active named Jim Landsaw came by my room one night during my senior year. I was living in the frat house and left my door open as often as possible. Jim looked concerned. He said that he had just found out that one of his close friends had died in a car wreck. After listening to him for a while, I asked, “Jim have you thought about where you would be right now if you had of been in that car?” He answered yes and that he had no idea. As we talked through the Gospel, Jim decided to surrender his life to Christ that night and would later serve on staff with Cru for two years after college. I was no saint in college and did several things that I regret, but when it came to the thoughts of giving my all to my fraternity to win as many to Christ as I could, I had very few regrets.

Here are two practical things I would do in college:

1. When I meet with a younger guy in the fraternity that has promise of being a spiritual leader in the house, there a few things I talk to him about. I first tell him that I see a lot of potential in him and that I could see him being a key spiritual leader in the house and then I ask him to consider two questions and then get back together in a few days to discuss them. I ask: What do you need to be doing this semester to prepare yourself personally and spiritually so that you could be one of the key spiritual leaders in this frat? And how can I help you? Next I ask: What do you not need to be doing to be ready to be one of the key spiritual leaders in this frat? And how can I keep you accountable in those areas?

2. During the last week of my time in college I decided to have a commissioning service for the guys I had been pouring into in my fraternity. I asked 7 guys to meet me down in the basement one night at midnight. Darren and I led the time together, because he had helped me over the years ministering in the house, and we were both about to graduate. Here are a few things we did that night when we met together. We both read various passages of scripture to the guys and challenged them to step up and lead the ministry in the chapter. That meant doing devotionals at chapter as well as leading bible studies in the house. Next we laid hands on each guy and prayed for them specifically. Then we took off their shoes and washed their feet, and finally we took communion together. Now I am not saying you need to do all these things, but I will say that the next day, when I was eating lunch in the house, Hunter Hall came up to me and said, "I really got it last night. I realize that I really need to step up and lead in this house!" And he did just that, becoming a key spiritual leader the next year. Then he went on to join staff with Cru and ended up coming back to the U of Arkansas and ministering back in the Sigma Chi house for seven years.

"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ...to the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:19,22)

**\*I wrote a book entitled, *Leaving a Legacy in your fraternity or sorority*. You can find a PDF copy on Amazon or you can email me and purchase a copy for \$8 at [Isaac.jenkins@cru.org](mailto:Isaac.jenkins@cru.org)**

# 8

**\*One of my main goals in writing this article is providing advice for any newly elected officers but also this would be good advice for anyone hosting a luncheon for officers in hopes of building credibility with a Chapter.**

## **Five Essentials to a Healthy Greek Chapter**

I am midway into my 31<sup>st</sup> year of being involved in the Greek system. I was very involved in my chapter for all four years of college. I went on to minister in the Greek system at Auburn University for four years and then I have spent the last 22 ½ years ministering in the Greek system at Ole Miss and the last 3 ½ years as the Sigma Chi advisor helping oversee the pledge program. Ole Miss is blessed with some of the biggest chapters in the nation. I have ministered in houses like ATO, KA, ΣX and ΣN. Each of these chapters are not only the biggest of their chapters but have at times been the biggest chapter of any fraternity with their membership numbers at close to 300. What's even more amazing than that is that some of the sororities my wife has ministered to at Ole Miss have as many as 500 members!

I have seen the Greek system change a lot over the last 30 + years. One key thing I have learned is that **we have to embrace change or we will be gone**. And all the chapters across the country who have not embraced change are now gone! As I have traveled to various chapters and given advice on being a strong chapter, I have come up with five essentials that every chapter needs to embrace in order to grow into being a healthy chapter.

I am sure there are more but these are the essentials:

### **1. Build a Strong Alumni Advisory Board**

If your chapter consists of 100 or less members then I guess you may be able to survive with only one chapter advisor, but if you are a part of a big chapter like the ones

we have at Ole Miss, I strongly suggest assembling an advisory board. You may have one person who is the main advisor. He will work directly with the President and oversees the other advisors on the board and helps give insight to their roles. I would suggest one alumni advisor over the house corp. This person works with the treasurer in balancing the fraternity finances –some of the big chapters can have excess of one million in yearly revenue that need to be overseen. I think this is too much for underclassmen. The house corp. also works with the house mom/dad who is usually overseeing the food menus at the house (If you serve meals at your house).



Sigma Chi Eta advisory board at Ole Miss.

Our current board has five members. At the time the picture was taken we had seven advisors along with our President and Vice President

I personally help oversee the pledge program within the Sigma Chi chapter at Ole Miss. We typically pledge between 60-90 pledges over a given year. If the President's office is the most important office in a Greek chapter, I would argue that the pledge office is as equally important. Mentoring and developing a strong, responsible pledge class is a challenge. In order to do this you need a strong and well thought through pledge program. Some fraternities, like Sigma Chi, have recently implemented good solid 8 week pledge programs designed to grow the pledges in the knowledge of being a good responsible brother but I think it is crucial to have an advisor heavily involved in the program as well.

In addition to having a board of several alumni, it is also strategic to keep a strong network of alumni involved

with the chapter. For example, when house improvements are needed, you want alumni that believe in the chapter and are ready to help. A bi-monthly newsletter has been a huge win for our chapter maintaining relations with the Alumni. Several years ago, my local fraternity got into some trouble with what we thought were some minor infractions but the University did not think they were so minor. When it looked like we could be suspended for a year, some of our alumni who were experienced lawyers put together an amazing appeal and we ended up getting almost all the charges dropped. Having alumni involved was crucial to saving the chapter from suspension.

I have seen some chapters not respect their advisors because the advisor only shows up at chapter only to read off lists of do's and don'ts or to put down the actives because they are in trouble yet again. I suggest if you are reading this article and aspire to be an advisor, I would eat at the house on a regular basis. Maybe even consider not trying to change much your first year but only seek to observe and serve the chapter. I started a tradition 4 years ago where I have the entire pledge class over to my house and grill burgers for them on my back deck. 75-85 guys is a lot to feed but it is worth it to earn the respect of the pledge class. Plus, they love to get off campus and be invited into a home.

## **2. Elect a strong Judicial board.**

You need to emphasize with your judicial board that they are not only to not tolerate hazing and to promise immediate alumni status to any accused, but to also help keep drugs and any other things that could jeopardize the chapter from having its charter suspended. The expectations of conduct in the fraternity needs to be made clear at the beginning of each semester and the leadership has to be firm at holding the actives to the fraternities expectations. This is crucial and fines for breaking the rules have to be enforced.

Over the years, hazing has brought down many of the biggest and oldest chapters in the nation. I have always been against hazing. In college, I used to go to "line ups" just to support the pledges and make sure the actives did not get out of line. But the days of lining up pledges only to belittle them is of the past. It can not be tolerated. Not only does it not promote a healthy brotherhood, it puts the entire chapter at risk. It only takes one pledge reporting an

incident to his mom and dad to have the entire future of the chapter placed on probation or suspended indefinitely.

One problem that the Universities and Nationals have had over recent years is how to punish the few members that get into trouble verses punishing the entire chapter. As I have reached out to the university (Ole Miss) and our national headquarters, my wish is that they discipline the individual instead of the entire organization. I have talked with leaders at our university as well as some of the leadership at our national HQ that we should hold an entire chapter of 200 -250 + responsible for the actions of a few. This is why you need a strong board to do everything they can to discipline any actives breaking rules.

### **3. Cultivate friendships with people in high places at the University**

Last spring we had an active say some very inappropriate comments about women on a mic during one of our philanthropies. Initially the University handed down six major consequences including no pledge class for the fall semester. I was in the judicial hearing meeting when the sentence was given. It was devastating because we would not be able to participate in rush, and the financial strain on the chapter would be severe. Once again it seemed the entire fraternity was being made to suffer because of the poor judgment of one active. Although he was placed on immediate alumni status, we had a lot of work ahead of us in the appeal process if we were to survive these sanctions.

This is where having healthy relationships in high levels at the University benefited us. Of course we appealed the sanctions but had not a few faculty come to our aid that were at the top close to the chancellor, most likely all six of the sanctions would have remained.

What do I mean by making friends with key leaders in the University? First of all, do things like inviting the male and female staff, who are over IFC, to join you on Monday nights for chapter dinner. Also reach out to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor and have them over to eat as well. The main thing that you want them to remember when actives make a mistake is that they are only part of the minority and not part of the whole fraternity. **You want the leadership to see your chapter as an asset to the campus and not a liability!** I would also invite them to attend your philanthropic events.



#### **4. Seek to have open; honest and frequent communication with the leadership at your headquarters.**

I have noticed over the years that most local chapters distrust their national headquarters and this has only caused their headquarters to do the same. When fraternities allow any level of hazing, it is hard for them to have honest dialog with their national headquarters knowing that almost all national fraternities, over the years, have embraced a no hazing policy.

One way we have been able to grow in our relationship with our headquarters is by inviting them to be a part of our initiation week. We started doing this around 5 years ago and it been a huge win for our chapter for several reasons. When we have one or two national reps join us for initiation week, it cuts all options for any actives to come over and yell or drill the pledges. This was a huge win for those of us in leadership over the chapter who knew that any sort of drilling pledges for material would only take away from the experience of learning about the deeper meaning of our fraternity. We wanted the pledges to look back at “I” week as one of their best weeks of pledgship. One of the main goals of initiation week should not be to tear down but to build up and assimilate the “candidates for initiation” into the brotherhood.

Also having a solid relationship with at least a few key people at your headquarters will cause them to more quickly come to your aid when any active does something causing you to come under the scrutiny of the University. Your national headquarters has an infinite amount of understanding in dealing with the IFC (Inter Fraternal Council or Pan-Hellenic council) at Universities all around the nation so having them help you with advice and even phone calls to your local IFC can and usually is a huge win.

#### **5. Implement a strong pledge program.**

Having a strong pledge program is essential to the survival of your chapter. Here are a few things with our local pledge class:

- A. **Only recruit rushees that will exemplify the ideals of your fraternity.** If they have even a hint of not living up to the standards in your pledge manual, then trust me, you do not want them being initiated into your chapter. All they will produce for you is headaches in the future and are an immediate liability for the entire chapter. Remember earlier when I said that the poor judgment of one active almost cost us 6 major sanctions including no pledge class for the next fall. That type of person should have never received a bid in the first place.
- B. **As soon as you have your first pledge meeting, have the pledges save the cell numbers of their pledge trainer, assistant pledge trainer and local advisor.** I make it very clear that if the pledge ever feels like he is being asked to do anything he does not agree with, first of all not to do it but then secondly call one of us immediately and we will address the problem or the active causing the problem. I make it clear that we do not accept any form of hazing and if the pledge ever feels that he is being asked to do something he does not feel is right then he can call me at any time. I could list a dozen examples of pledges calling their mom or dad who in turn called the national headquarters to report an incident. The only problem with bypassing the pledge trainer or advisor is that it makes the local leadership look like they do not have the best interests of the pledges in mind. –And at some chapters, that might be the case, but I try to make it crystal clear that we have the pledges back and want the best experience for them as possible during pledgship.
- C. **It is of utmost importance to police the pledges social media.** Check with your local IFC leaders to see what is allowed but I would encourage the pledges to either turn off their social medial or post nothing on social media until after initiation. The pledges are usually around 18 years old and don't realize the full extent of their choices and how they not only effect themselves but also the 200+ actives they are being associated with. One pledge can bring down an entire chapter with one inappropriate "snap chat" or tweet.



- D. **Strongly encourage the pledges to take their pledge material seriously.** I want them to understand that by committing to our pledgeship, they are committing a solid amount of time each week to studying the material that we have prepared for them. I ask them to treat the material that we assign them like taking a college class. It will require time and discipline to study so that they will grasp the deeper meanings of our fraternity. Share examples of how the pledge material has prepared you for being an active.
- E. **Invite local alumni from the fraternity to come talk to the pledges about life in college.** I have developed a 5 part series on manhood that addresses subjects that challenge the boys to really live like men. It is a great way for me to get local alumni involved as well in giving the talks. We address issues like how to treat a women with respect, and how to handle your money now so that you will be successful down the road. We also spend a lot of time talking about your decisions and how they affect not only you and your pledge brothers, but also the entire Greek system. You can either view my talks or down load the talk notes at [Greeklelegacy.org](http://Greeklelegacy.org) and click on the manhood talks tab.

# 9

## What if I do not get a bid from the fraternity or sorority I wanted?

First of all, let's talk about what you want versus what you *really* want. If you are a true follower of Christ, I hope that what you *really* want is to live a life of significance. I'm not talking about getting elected to positions or having a good resume, I'm talking about leaving a legacy in your fraternity or sorority by investing in younger men and women by sharing the Gospel with them. If that's what you *really* want then God sometimes may not give you the things you think you want because he wants to give you what you *really* want. (this is a little confusing- maybe you could say what you want vs. what you need. Or temporary desire vs. eternal desire? Just a thought).

What if you can't see the big picture and God has a bigger plan for you? Maybe He has a particular chapter and a particular mission for you. You need to understand that you don't get a bid because of the way you look or who you know –that is if you're looking at the bigger picture\* Are you trying to say: “It’s easy to get caught up in why you didn’t get a bid from the house you wanted, but maybe you need to take a step back and think about God’s bigger plan.” God is the one who places you where He places you so that you can be a part of His bigger plan to impact a Greek chapter for the Gospel.

The book of Esther describes a scene that is very close to this idea. Queen Esther was in a tough situation on whether or not she would speak to the king and save her people. When her uncle Mordicai realized she was wavering on saying anything to the king he responded by saying, “Do you think to yourself that in the King’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise from the Jews from another place, but you and your fathers house will perish. **And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**” Esther 4:13-14.

Queen Ester eventually realized and owned the idea that God had placed her in a leadership position for a reason. She was right where God wanted her to be and if she did not speak up then God would have had to use someone else. Maybe God has some work He wants to do in the lives of people around you and He wants **you** to play a part in changing their lives. When I pledged my freshman year, I had no idea how much of an impact I could have on those 200 young men. Those were some of the most fun and fulfilling times of my life. I am so glad he placed me in that house for such a time as that!

Four years ago, a student named Abby went through rush at Ole Miss and was faced with a very hard choice. Her situation was different in that she was being rushed by two top sororities and really struggled because both sororities were respected on campus. She recently told me,

“Sorority recruitment turned out to be one of the first times in my life that I had to completely trust God and actually cling to His promise that His plan was greater than mine, and boy did He prove just that. I spent the whole week confused and frustrated trying to confirm and justify my adoration for two different houses, both of which are incredible in their own ways. After a sleepless night, I opened my bid card that Sunday and saw I would be running to the lawn I hadn’t necessarily expected to be running to, but I had never been so excited and confident about a journey that lay ahead of me. I’m sure my time at the other house would have been great too, but not a day has gone by that God has not continued to prove Himself faithful in His perfect plan created for me, His child. I’ve never been so sure that my God is not only a loving God who wants the best for me, but that He truly knows the desires of my heart even better than I know them myself. When I decided to let go of the control I thought I wanted and needed to live the perfect college sorority girl life, He proved His perfect will is truly to do immeasurably more than anything I could have imagined on my own.”

Abby could not have imagined how much God would use her. Three years into being involved with her sorority, she was elected president influenced 400+ women in her chapter. I was invited to speak on what it looks like to be a Godly woman at her chapter one night, and I was so impressed with how she wrapped up my talk and challenged the girls who were sitting in that chapter room.

When you rush, don't worry about getting the bid from that house you think you want, instead trust God to place you in the chapter where you can have the most influence for His kingdom.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

# 10

## **Leading a Bible study in a Greek chapter** **“What you have heard from me in the presence of many** **witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to** **teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2**

Leading a Bible study in a Greek house can be very intimidating but it doesn't have to be! My goal in this article is to make it as easy as I can for you to invest in faithful men and women. The goal of a Bible study is, ultimately, to produce godly men or women who can then go share with others and produce more faithful disciples. When I moved to Ole Miss 23 years ago, I met two fraternity guys that I invested into. Gordon was a Sigma Nu and Bo was a Sigma Chi. After meeting with me, they felt confident enough to invest into a few more faithful men, pouring out everything they had learned into them. 23 years later, there are still men pouring into men in both of their chapters because of the faithfulness of those two men.

There are several types of studies and I'll divide them into five groups: 1. Co-ed studies. 2. Chapter or “House” studies. 3. Class studies. 4. Discipleship studies. 5. “Stud” studies.

**1. Co-ed studies:** Co-ed studies are a great way to get guys and girls to come to a Bible study who normally would not even consider going. 23 years ago, when we started our Greek ministry at Ole Miss, we started with one co-ed study. Each year we added studies one by one until we grew to 11 co-ed studies. These studies have been growing and continuing for the past ten years. One of the greatest benefits to Greek ministry is it only takes 2 years for something to become a “tradition”. Students assume if they did something during pledgship the pledges coming in the next year should do the same. I recommend these studies to only last 3-5 weeks because guys and girls usually don't go very deep with the other sex in the room. The best way to start is by pairing up fraternities with sororities with whom they naturally associate. For example, the Sigma Chi's spend a lot of time with Chi Omegas, so I would meet with the chaplains and pitch the idea for the study. If they don't have a chaplain, I would try to meet with someone who is the spiritual leader in the chapters. If you don't know anyone in the chapter that is currently

walking with the Lord, I would try to give a talk directly to the pledge class and pitch the idea to the guys at the end of your talk. Then follow up with a few guys and see if they are interested. Once you have two Greek chapters agree to the coed study, here are a few things to do:

1. Purchase Bibles that are the same translation or print out the scriptures out on paper so students don't feel uncomfortable trying to look-up the passages. If they all have the same Bibles, you can say turn to page 930 to start reading in John 1.
2. Try to set the location at the sorority house. Girls can be nervous and intimidated to walk into a fraternity house while guys have no problem accepting the invite to a sorority house.
3. Try to set the time to be around an hour to an hour and a half before they have dinner. We do ours at 4 pm because dinner starts around 5 to 5:30.



#### Sigma Nu and Kappa Delta Freshman Coed Study

4. I usually start with a 20 minute talk about a subject and then split the freshman up into small co-ed groups. It's best to have the actives you trust lead the groups, but it's not necessary to have leaders. For example, if I want to lead a study on "gray" areas, I would start off by asking the students what gray areas they see in their chapters. I.e. fake ID's or underage drinking. Next, I break them up into small groups and ask them to read 2-3 passages like Romans 14:13-23 and discuss what they think the bible has to say about these gray areas. Finally, I offer some closing thoughts and wrap the study up. If I have enough upperclassmen leaders from each of the chapters, I like to have them lead the small groups, if nothing else, it's a great way to get the freshmen familiar with the older spiritual leaders in their chapter.
5. Pass out comment cards and let them know that you want to get back together to answer any questions they have about the study. This is great for getting to share the Gospel with them one on one. (Example of comment card



questions: If you are interested in hearing more about spiritual things please check this box).

6. If you are starting co-ed studies for the first time, consider pairing up two fraternities with two sororities; I have seen campuses like UK launch an entire Greek ministry from a four house study.



Four house study at the University of Kentucky

## 2. Chapter or “House” study

Open house studies are a great type of “seeker” study that is open to everyone in the chapter. This is the most common type of study. Here are a few ideas on leading a study like this:

1. A good time to lead the study is either just before or just after dinner. We have also seen a lot of success by doing the study during lunch on the back porch.



Closing in prayer at a chapter or open study on the back deck of the Sigma Chi house at Ole Miss

2. Try to purchase bibles that are all the same translation and from the same company so that guys are not intimidated to look up passages they are not familiar with. If I say turn to a certain page then it is easy for everyone at the study.
3. I usually like to read through a book in the Bible in the fall and then possibly read through an outside book in the spring. You usually have more guys

coming randomly in the fall. When the spring rolls around, you will have a better idea of how many guys will be coming. The book of John is a great book to read through with first-timers because it is impactful discussing the claims of Christ each week.

4. If you choose to read through a book other than the Bible, I suggest reading a book like “Thoughts for Young Men” by J.C. Ryle. We have the discussion questions posted on GreekLegacy.org under the “Articles and Materials” tab.
5. House Studies are a great way to allow your young leaders lead regularly or occasionally. I suggest that if you have a student lead the study that you meet with them to prepare the study and try and attend weekly. If you stop going, then the study can turn into a “dead end” study rather quickly. What I mean by a “dead end” study is that there is no real goal to the study and the guys will usually slowing become less involved in any outside campus ministry.

### **3. Class Studies**

These types of studies are when seniors lead juniors; juniors lead sophomores and sophomores lead freshmen. Sigma Nu at Ole Miss has had a 10+ year tradition of doing these types of studies. Kyle Cole, a Sigma Nu from Ole Miss graduated 12 years ago and then joined staff with Cru, and he has been overseeing the class studies in his chapter ever since. He says, “You want the student to feel as if the study is designed just for him. The more effectively you fine-tune the study to a specific demographic, the more challenged the student will feel to come to the study. There is nothing more strategic than a student learning from his peer. Both for the student attending the study and for the student leading the study will benefit.”

### **4. Discipleship Studies**

I would view a discipleship level study as a study that is at a deeper level of content and commitment from the open house studies. These are the most important studies for spiritual multiplication. When I lead a discipleship study, I am asking the guys to commit to a few things:

1. Attend each week and make the study a priority in their schedule.

2. Meet with me either every week or every other week to follow up freshman and or talk about purity and ministry.
3. Be involved in a local church.
4. Be involved in my local campus ministry and bring guys to the weekly large group meeting.
5. Help me follow up freshman and help share the Gospel with every pledge so that we saturate the chapter with the Gospel.
6. Meet with me once a week or once every other week to discuss personal ministry in their chapter.
7. Talk to them about growing in personal purity and holiness.
8. Challenge them to disciple 3 others with the transferrable concepts I have taught them.

## 6. “Stud” Studies

Some times you can challenge one or two guys in each chapter to be in one study. It helps the guys with very few Christians in their chapter to experience fellowship with other guys who are pursuing the Lord in the same way they are. Also it’s good for guys to hear what the Lord is doing in other chapters. If you do not have a weekly or monthly Greek meeting on your campus, this could act as your core leader group that will help you launch a large group meeting.

**Finally** I would pray for men and women who are Faithful, Available, and Teachable. I pray every fall before rush that God would bring me just one or two faithful followers of Christ who are ready to help me lead the ministry in the fraternity house.

## How to Lead a Bible Study

By Kyle Cole

Kyle  
leading a  
study in  
Sigma Nu  
house



### Preparing for the Study

- Set a firm time for your study
- Lock down an inviting location (preferably the same place each week)
- Choose a study that is applicable and interesting for your group
- Read ahead. Make sure you know the full context of the scripture or book chapter you are using
- Study the text beforehand to see how it applies directly to you
- Personally call or text people and challenge them to come each week
- Set up a group text for contact and prayer request throughout the week
- Prepare for a discussion not a lecture
- Schedule one person a week to share their testimony to begin the study
- Prepare OPEN ENDED questions
- Make sure your study is Christ centered
- Bring extra Bibles
- Use your personal strengths
- Pray for the study and the attendees weekly

### **Leading the Study**

- Hang out for around 10 minutes before the study begins
- Start with a story to make them feel comfortable
- Make your intentions, expectations, and goals for the group clear
- Be sure they know any personal information shared at the study stays there
- Get the group to make general observations about the text
- Interpret the meaning of the text
- Find ways to practically apply the text individually
- Ask your open ended questions
- Involve everyone in the group – don't let a few people dominate the conversation
- Patiently wait for responses (awkward silences are normal and okay)
- Be honest about past and current struggles you have experienced (vulnerability from the leader is the most important component for a successful study)

- Ask for any prayer requests (encourage them to be non-surface level)
- Close in prayer – have someone in the group open and someone else close

**After the Study**

- Pray for what took place at the study and for wisdom moving forward
- Organize something fun for the group to do together once a month
- Encourage accountability, evangelistic, and prayer groups
- Encourage scripture memorization

You can contact Kyle Cole with questions at:  
DanielKyleCole@gmail.com

# 11

## **What makes Greeks possibly the most strategic students to minister to on the University campus:**

Reaching Greeks is strategic  
As a matter of fact I would say ministering in the Greek system on today's college campus is one of the most strategic groups to reach.

### **Easily Approachable**

Access to students on Universities across the U.S. is becoming increasingly challenging. However, there is one group of students that the University cannot keep you from ministering to: Greeks..

Through one bold step of walking into a chapter, you can instantly have an opened door to 35 – 400. Nearly every Greek organization is founded on Christian principles. If a pledge trainer likes what you have to offer then he can require his 25-100 pledges to hear you speak. If a president likes what you have to offer, he might require the entire chapter to hear you speak. This fall alone, I was able to speak in front of 20 fraternity and sorority pledge classes with many of them hearing me speak 6-8 times! I was able to clearly present the Gospel to over 1,000 freshmen.

Longevity is key! The more trust you build the better. I hear from other campus ministers that reaching non-Greeks is getting harder to accomplish. Brandon Boyd, on staff with Cru, recently told me, “Non-Greek students, living in the dorms/suites on campus, are becoming increasingly more difficult to get in front of due to more layers or “barriers” put in place by the University leadership. Most of this is due to security and privacy concerns. I have found it increasingly difficult to get into these types of areas and yet I can walk right into the Sigma Nu house, talk with a

pledge trainer and have almost immediate access to the pledges.”



This pic is one of several coed bible studies we led at Ole Miss this past Fall. The KA's and the Chi Omega pledge classes were encouraged to roll out and they did just that!

### **Great Social Skills**

Due to the pressures of Rush, the social scenes within Greek houses, and the training throughout pledgship Greeks tend to be some of the most socially mature students on campus. Their well developed social skills makes it easy to meet with and talk to large numbers of people. They have great social networks that can in turn open other doors across campus. One of the greatest aspects to their social nature is that when someone trusts Christ in a chapter and begins to grow spiritually, the news can spread like wildfire throughout the chapter. Suddenly this person can influence as many as 350 other people in their chapter.

### **Future Leaders sororities**

It is no secret that a majority of our countries leaders are products of the Greek system. According to USA Today all but 2 U.S. Presidents and Vice Presidents, 75% of U.S. Congressmen and Senators, and 86% of Fortune 500 executives came out of a fraternity. Greek men and women also have a 20% higher graduation rate than non-Greeks. 88% of the student leaders on 730 U.S. campuses are involved in the Greek community. When you consider the low percentage of students that are Greek affiliated these numbers are pretty staggering. In ministering to college students one of the biggest challenges we face is spending our valuable time with the right people. We must be selective with whom we invest in and groom them to invest into others. According to statistics, Greeks make for a wise investment. When Dr. Bright decided to reach the world for

Christ, he felt college students were the sharpest and brightest and could make it happen. When he and his wife, Vonette Bright, walked onto the campus of UCLA in 1953, they started their ministry by reaching Greeks and leaders of the student government. Their idea was that if you reach the leaders, they will in turn reach the campus which will influence the nation.

### **Heavily Involved on Campus**

My favorite thing about working with Greeks is the fact they make themselves readily available. Fraternities and sororities pride themselves on giving back to the campus and community. This past year alone Greeks raised over \$7 million for charity and served over 10 million hours of volunteer service. They are way more active and available than your average student.

I am not saying that working with Greeks is a higher calling but that it is extremely strategic. As I consult with students and campus ministers around the nation, I love helping them catch the vision that Dr. Bright had 63 years ago.



# 12

## 5 ways to succeed in ministering to fraternities and sororities



One of our many coed Bible studies this Fall. KA's and the Chi Omegas.

### **1 longevity.**

A majority of campus ministers stay at one campus for only 1-2 years. It takes around 4 years to really start seeing the fruit of your labor. You may have heard the saying, "We overestimate what we can accomplish in 1 year and we underestimate what we can accomplish in 4." If you are serious about taking the Gospel to Greeks, you need to be patient. In our first year at Ole Miss, my wife and I were able to successfully do one coed study between the Sigma Chi's and Delta Gammas. The next year we added the Sigma Nu's and the Chi Omegas'. From these studies we launched a Greek Movement. 20 Falls later we had around 725 at our first weekly meeting and 10 coed studies and most of them "highly encouraged" their pledges to attend. As a result, 20 pledge classes had the opportunity to hear the Gospel and 149 made decisions!

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

### **2. Confidence**

I know the Greek system can be very intimidating. I walk into every Frat house with the idea that I've got

something they need to hear it if they don't listen to what I have to say then they're going to miss out hearing the Gospel. I never call officers when I am starting a new ministry in the chapter, I go to the house and try to meet them face to face. When I speak to pledge classes, my goal is to be as honest, clear and as confident as I can in my presentations. Greeks are mostly leaders and respect people who speak with confidence and authority.

### **3. Befriend actives but share the gospel with pledges**

The goal of Greek ministry is to saturate a fraternity so if you share the gospel with every pledge class in four years you'll be saturated the fraternity you have to be careful walking into a house in sharing the gospel with an officer because if you talk to them about Christ and there of another religion or have anti-Christ believes they can shut the door on you being in that attorney for the next several years I saw an example of this in one on one campus one time work I walked in and share the gospel with the president who was of a different religion and he shut the door for that guy to be able to come back in the house.

### **4. Be careful not to speak your convictions too early**

Remember that you may have developed your convictions over the course of several years and most of these students you are ministering to are young in their faith. I know someone working with Greeks one time told her Bible study they didn't really think they need to be drinking alcohol and the entire Bible study quit coming to their Bible study. Remember you may have developed your convictions on a topic over months or years of spiritual growth. Since colleges students are between the ages of 18-22, their convictions on godly living are usually in a very young stage. I like to simply teach them the Word and allow the Holy Spirit to convict them on godly living. When I do address areas that might seem black and white to us but only a gray area to them, I like to look at passages like Romans 14:14-23 and Philippians 4:8. These passages can help a young believer think through their decisions. There are three questions I will ask a young believer when we meet up the first

time. These questions help them to think inwardly about their spiritual maturity and helps me help them identify what they need to be doing to live holy lives and minister in their chapter.

1. What do you need to be doing to get your self ready to minister in this Chapter next semester?
2. What do you not need to be doing to get your self ready?
3. and how can I help you?

### **5. Getting appointments**

Once I start an active or pledge Bible study, it is open to anyone. I call these “seeker studies” and my goal is to share Christ one on one with everyone who attends. When someone attends a study for the first time, I get their cell phone number after the study and ask if they would be able to meet up some time in the next week to discuss what we talked about. It is ideal to have one of the upper classmen, whom you are discipling, to go with you on the appointment. Several years ago I was working in the Phi Delt house at Ole Miss. I had an older Phi Delt named Russell Flint help me lead a house study. He got the guys there and we both followed up each new guy that came. Over the course of the year, we ended up sharing Christ with every active living in the house. Russell saw the Lord use him so much that he ended up joining staff with Cru and working with Greeks at UF.

Isaac can be reached at [Isaac.jenkins@Cru.org](mailto:Isaac.jenkins@Cru.org) with questions regarding ministering to Greeks. He also is available for online consulting sessions.

# 13

## **How do I share the Gospel with frat stars as a campus minister?**

### **Becoming an insider**

I placed my faith in Christ the summer before my tenth grade year of high school and from that time on began to consider working in full time ministry. My youth pastor, along with a few godly men in our church, had a huge impact on my life. Over my four years of college, I volunteered at a local church and ministered to high school kids but about mid way through my Junior year I realized I was living right in the middle of a mission field –my fraternity. Around November of my senior year I decided that instead of working with youth in a church, I would minister to young men in fraternities. I went on staff with Campus Crusade in 1990 and have been ministering in fraternities ever since.

I have been overseas around 30 times doing summer and spring break mission trips and have loved every minute of sharing the Gospel in other countries. But every time I get back to the states and walk back into a frat house, I am reminded that this is where I need to be investing my time. I have preached in 6 or seven different churches over the years as a guest and have had many of those churches ask me to pray about becoming their pastor, but I always am led back to ministering to Greeks.

Over the next few pages I will briefly share with you how I share the Gospel with “frat stars”.

If you’re a campus minister and are starting to do ministry in a fraternity or sorority here are a few thoughts:

1. When choosing what Greek house you will start to minister in, I would choose one of the biggest chapters on campus because chances are high that they will have a lot of the top leaders on campus. When you get leaders involved then lots of others will follow.
2. You can confidently walk into the house knowing that if they do not know Christ, then you have something they desperately need to hear.
3. When I am ministering in a chapter for the first time I make friends with the actives but I share Christ with the pledges. And as you earn respect in the fraternity or sorority you're ministering in then you can begin to share Christ with the actives. If you share the gospel with an active and they are offended they can make it where you're no longer accepted are allowed to come over to the house. But pledges don't have much pull so I'll
4. When I am ministering in a new house, I never call the pledge trainer but go in the house and ask for him and meet him in person. He is less likely to trust me if I call him on the phone.
5. I know that they will have around an 8 week pledgship and I offer several talks that I can come give from talks on manhood to myths pledges believe. \*You can access several of my talks on my website:

Greeklegacy.org and click on the manhood tab.

6. I find out what sorority they spend time with the most and try to set up a coed freshman bible study. I like to do it for around 3 weeks just before dinner at the sorority house. Girls don't like walking into frat houses but guys absolutely love going to the girl's houses. After the 3 weeks are up, I like to split the guys and girls up so that the guys can start meeting back at the fraternity house.
7. Your goal ultimately is to get comment cards during the pledge meetings or comment cards from the coed study and find out who the followers of Christ are and who is spiritually interested.

### **So how did I share the gospel with guys when I would meet with them one-on-one?**

When I would meet with a pledge for the first time there were a few things I would ask:

1. Tell me a little about your back ground. Where are you from? What denomination did you grow up in? Were you very active in going to church? This gives me an idea of how much they know or do not know about the Gospel.
2. The next question I always ask is, "So based on everything you just told me about your life, if you were to die tonight, on a scale from 1 to 100 how sure are you that you would go to heaven if you died tonight with 100 being that you are 100 % positive?" Very few guys ever tell me they feel confident.

3. Another question I may ask is, “IF you were to stand before God and He was to ask you why He should let you into His kingdom, what would you say?”. There answer gives me a good idea what they are trusting in for their salvation.

Most of the time I then pull out the four spiritual laws and read through it and have seen a lot of guys trust Christ over the years with it. But if I don't have it I will use my bible and go through the four points and look up the scriptures that go along with each point. Also you can down load the app called “God Tools” and it has a version of the knowing God personally that you can show a friend. It also has articles talking about knowing Christ. Some of my friends through the training of the ministry Student Mobilization use what is called the bridge diagram. It is a great way to share the Gospel using Romans 6:8

The reason I like using the four laws or knowing God personally book is that it helps keep me stay on track and it also helps me bring them to the point of decision. Every time I share the Gospel with a guy, I will close with a few questions:

1. Based on everything we have talked about today, who would you say that you are trusting in to save you? Christ or your good works? Usually I will not make them answer the question but will immediately go to my next question:
2. “If you would like to be 100% sure you are in Christ, when do you think would be a good time to make this decision?” If they say they really want to be 100% now then I give them a few options by saying:
3. “We can pray together right now and Ill lead you in praying to trust in Christ or you can pray silently or you can think about what we

have talked about today and maybe we can meet up again next week but let me be honest in saying that I think this is the most important decision you will ever make and I would not put it off.”

I must say that introducing somebody to Christ is one of the most exciting things we can do in the Christian life. The reason I love it is because I know I'm just a small cog in the wheel of helping that person coming to Christ. But knowing Christ affects everything. Like who they will date; how they will raise their kids and even the career path they will choose. I counted the other day that in the past 15 years at Ole Miss, our ministry has seen 7 guys trust Christ and go on to be pastors! That's a major career change from where they were headed.

Also your hard work in sharing the Gospel to Greeks may even end of being a blessing to other campus ministers down the road. A few years ago I received a phone call from a lady who had attended Ole Miss as a freshman in 1967 and pledged Chi Omega. She said that a cru staff spoke to here pledge class one afternoon and shared the Gospel. She decided right then to trust Christ and live for Him. She went on to say that recently her dad passed away and she wanted to take some of the money she inherited and make a donation to cru at Ole Miss because God had used that ministry to change her life. She ended up giving our campus \$10,000! Here we were 35+ years later receiving some of the benefits of those staff that were faithful to share the Gospel in Greek houses.

In closing, as I was halfway through writing this article I got a text from a staff on our campus informing me that a sorority girl at Ole Miss was tragically killed last night by a drunk driver. At



least I have the peace that I shared Christ with her pledge class and that maybe she listened. 10 years ago, three ATO's lost their lives in a tragic fire that completely destroyed their fraternity. I have a charred brick on my book shelf that I picked up out of the fire to always remind me how short life is.

# 14

When ministering in a fraternity or sorority, what does “Gospel Saturation” look like?

The way Cru defines “Gospel Saturation” is giving a group of individuals three opportunities to hear the Gospel. This can be achieved in multiple ways. But my goal in each of the fraternities I work with is to give them three opportunities to say “yes” to Christ. I like to focus on each pledge class. If I can expose them to the Gospel three times each fall, by my fourth year, I will have saturated that fraternity with the Gospel.

Let me give you some examples:

1. 23 years ago, we started our first coed freshman Bible study at Ole Miss. The first year we paired up two houses. I decided that I would clearly share the Gospel at the first meeting. Over the years we added more and more houses; this past fall we had 11 coed studies going on throughout the Greek system at Ole Miss. I estimate that around 1400 freshmen heard the Gospel this fall alone. After walking them through the Gospel, I give them the opportunity to pray with me if they want to trust in Christ. We have these freshmen fill out a comment card and ask for their contact information and comments. Finally I ask them to write somewhere on the card the phrase, “I prayed with you Isaac” if they really did, in fact, pray with me. This past fall we had 275 freshmen write those words on their comment cards!

A few pictures of some of our coed studies:



2. Invite the entire pledge class to a campus ministry meeting when you know the Gospel is going to be clearly presented.
3. Invite the pledge class to attend a particular church one Sunday when you know that the pastor plans to present the Gospel.
4. I have even given various kinds of talks with entire pledge classes and passed out comment cards and depending on their response, I will follow up with every pledge that is spiritually interested.



My wife and I speaking to a fraternity on dating and marriage

5. After the coed study is over (usually 3-4 weeks) I like to just have a pledge men's study where I will often try to follow up every pledge that attends the study.



Here I am following up a guy in his fraternity room. I really want to make our appointment as easy and comfortable for them as possible. So I usually try to follow them up at their house.

Picture by Ted Wilcox

6. Use the "interview list" as a way to present the Gospel. If your fraternity requires pledges to get signatures of Actives, I ask my key guys to make a covenant with each other to share the Gospel through their testimony with every pledge they meet. In a big chapter, we might have 80+ pledges. It would almost be impossible for one person to meet one on one with all 80 guys but if you have 5-

7 guys, in whom you trust, split the pledges up, you can share with the entire class one on one.



Meeting with two of my  $\Sigma$ Ns to talk more about following up the pledges

Picture by Ted Wilcox

7. Several years ago I developed a 5 part manhood series that can be found on [Greekleadership.org](http://Greekleadership.org) under the “Manhood” tab. I do not share the Gospel in these talks but it is a way for me to earn credibility with the officers and pledges in a chapter. Just over a year ago, I spoke to the pledge class at the  $\text{AT}\Omega$  house. After the talk, one pledge named Zach asked an active for my number and texted me to meet up. When we met up, he told me that he really respected a few of the older actives. One in particular was a guy named Hamilton. He knew that Hamilton and a few others were involved with Cru and noticed something different about how they lived their lives. Zach met with me because he was starting to think more about God and thought I could help him. That day Zach surrendered his life to Christ and is now one of our student leaders. Zach just helped lead a guy to Christ last week!



Hamilton and Zach in front of the ATΩ house at Ole Miss

8. Finally invite your freshmen to attend the Greek Summit in Destin, Florida each May. You can go to [Greeksummit.com](http://Greeksummit.com) and learn more, but I promise it can turn any young Christian into a multiplying disciple back in their chapter.



Greek Summit in Destin FL.

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## ***Six essentials to a summer project***

Several years ago I saw a commercial about Michael Jordan. You could hear his voice in the background listing all his failures. Then his last sentence was something like, "I have failed time and time again and that is why I succeed".

I would say that sums up my 27 years in the ministry. Any success in ministry I have seen is only due to lots of failures and God's grace.

This past spring break I helped lead my 27<sup>th</sup> mission trip overseas. I have also had the privilege of helping lead 12 state side summer projects. If you are planning or leading a summer project, these are six essentials to what you need. It's hard to say which are more important than the others but each is equally important.

### **1. community**

You need lots of community. Think of ways to help the students feel like they are part of a larger family. One of the reasons The Greek Summit in Destin is so successful every year is largely due to the students spending so much time being around each other. They get to see a little of what I think heaven will be like. All these people broken like them but feeling accepted and loved.

### **2. care (individual discipleship)**

The director should shepherd the staff and the staff disciple the students. At the Greek Summit, we pair up 4-6 student staff with one married staff. Each of the student staff meet with 4-6 students. They meet as a group and then each leader also meets with each of his guy's one on one to talk about the content discussed in the bible study as well as talking about purity and accountability.

### **3. theological training**

Your students need to know the basics. I have noticed over the years that students are knowing less and less of the Bible when they go to college. So we study the word with them regularly plus talk about the basics. We talk about the core doctrines: Salvation; assurance of salvation; identity in Christ; the Holy Spirit:

#### **4. ministry training for a lifetime of ministry**

At the Greek Summit, we have every student know how to do these basics: How to study the Bible; How to give your testimony; How to share your faith; How to lead a Bible study. How to follow up a person in your bible study or someone from a contact card and even what it looks like to start a personal ministry in your area of influence.

#### **5. developing a heart for the nations**

Developing a heart to reach the nations is so critical for our students. If you want them to read through a book then I would have them read, *Let the Nations be Glad* by John Piper. It is my favorite book on helping develop a heart for missions. I would take at least one full meeting to talk about the need to go to the nations. I stress that we probably will not develop a heart for a people group until we go!

#### **6. developing a plan**

Before our students leave our project, they have to meet with their small group leader and present a plan with three action points on how they are going to reach their area of influence. For example: If their area of influence is a Greek chapter then their plan might include things like sharing their testimony with the pledge class and then starting a bible study with the pledges. Having a plan of action for the fall before they leave project verses no plan is a key to them seeing ministry success in the fall.

Greek  
Summit in  
the early  
years



Finally understand that Prayer is the foundation to all these points. You and your staff need to take regular times of prayer and even fasting and prayer for your students.





## **About the Author**

Isaac Jenkins, his wife Meg and three children live in Oxford Mississippi. Isaac graduated from the University of Arkansas where he was a  $\Sigma X$ . He went on staff with Cru in 1990 specifically to minister to fraternity men. He is currently works with Greeks at Ole Miss and consults with campus ministries and students around the nation who are trying to minister in the Greek system. His wife, Meg, was a  $X\Omega$  at Auburn. He also helps provide leadership over a project each summer designed to equip Greeks to have a ministry in their chapters.