

Excelling in Academics as a Believer

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- Habits and study tips for successful
- Being a Christian student is certainly a daily challenge.
- Regardless of your passion for success, student life can be stressful and overwhelming at times.
- Therefore, I have compiled some useful habits and effective study tips that will help you study smarter and be the top Christian student you strive to be.

Think About This.....

- "We are the salt of the earth" is a Bible verse from Matthew 5:13, which is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:
- **"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men".**
- Right from the first century, salt had two purposes: preserving food and enhancing flavor. Jesus may have been using this metaphor to describe how his disciples should be in the world:
- **Preservatives:** Slowing down the spread of moral and spiritual decay.
- **Flavor enhancers:** Enriching the goodness of life and making God's work stand out.
- The phrase "salt of the earth" can also be used as an idiom to describe someone who is very good, honest, and reasonable

- Objective – To excel in both our faith and our academic pursuits, think about the **outcome**, follow the **process**.

- Outcomes that should occur
 1. growth as a Christian
 2. building up with other believers in the body of Christ
 3. academic achievement to the best of our God – given abilities
 4. enjoyable and satisfying experience as a student
 5. Key to success – develop and practice effective life habits

- **Challenge Problem**

- I was a brilliant student in secondary school, but since coming to this school, there is so much work to do that I just can't keep up.
- Therefore, I am getting bad grades for the first time ever, I can not sleep very well, and I don't have time to read my Bible like I used to.
- If my grades don't get better I will lose my many things including my parents' respect.

Establishing Your Priorities

- Our priorities are based on:
- Personal principles of our living
- Desires and goals that emanate from these principles
- Personal life goals may fall within many categories:
- spiritual, intellectual, family, professional, financial, social, physical...
- Prioritizing requires a balance between exercising an acceptable level of productivity and increasing/creating your productive capability.

- **Personal Productivity Habits & Study Skills**
- Objectives – to provide you with tools you can use for:
- Balancing demands on time
- Activity prioritization strategies
- Scheduling techniques

- According to the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Steven Covey

	Urgent	Not Urgent
Important	Classes Reading Fellowship Eating	Whatsapp Parties Movies Meetings
Not Important	Calls Sms Meetings	Gisting Meetings

- ✓ Plan to do all (most) school work on M-F if possible
- ✓ Give particular attention to using afternoons and Fridays which can be high-quality worktime
- ✓ Each day briefly review and outline your notes from each lecture.
- ✓ You can outline your notes during class. These outlines can be very useful in studying for exams.
- ✓ Plan extra time to study for exams without neglecting your other courses.
- ✓ Not all hours of the day are created equal.
- ✓ Save your highest quality time for most important activities – studying, meetings, fellowship.
- ✓ Make good use of time between classes
- ✓ Plan incidentals (shopping, laundry, phone calls, etc.) and relaxation for off-prime time.
- ✓ Plan to get to bed on week nights consistently at a time early enough to be well rested for health, alertness, efficiency
- ✓ Include regular time for enjoyable recreation/refreshing
- ✓ Identify a regular place to study that is quiet and without interruptions
- ✓ Arrange some study time with classmates after you have done your own preparation.
- ✓ Plan time each week to work on long term projects
- ✓ Do not spend more than the allotted time on any course
- ✓ Complete other assignments first, then return to earlier troublesome course only if time allows

- **Get organised**

- An essential part of school is **being organised**, so ensuring you properly manage your priorities and time is paramount. It is vital that a Christian student is organized so they can do their job free from mistakes that can put a patient's life at risk.
- You will learn throughout school how to stay organized and properly plan your priorities.
- Each step you take as a Christian student will need to be properly organized.
- Getting organised now is an important habit to have as a successful Christian student.

- **Principles of effective study skills**

- Goal – to develop a method of organizing and prioritizing responsibilities to be able to maintain a balance between academic & personal activities while deriving high benefit in both areas.

1. Plan to attend every class
2. If possible, sit in the front
3. Be an active learner in class
4. Think of questions to ask
5. Outline your notes for key points
6. Go to class rested & prepared
7. Begin work on long-term projects immediately
8. Break down big projects into smaller parts to work ahead on Target completion ahead of deadline (e.g., one week early)
9. Calibrate the work you invest in a course with the credit hours to be earned

- Attempt to understand concepts before beginning homework
- Don't rely on mimicking example problem solutions from text • 1st priority – understand the concepts presented in class
- • 2nd priority – make a solid effort on homework and laboratory/practical reports

- **Get enough sleep**

- During exam season, when students disregard their own health to be able to focus solely on the task at hand, sleep is often deprived. However, as a Christian student, you should know the importance of sleep.
- Getting a proper night's sleep will give you the energy and cognitive boost to be healthier, study better, feel happier and more motivated too.
- Constantly feeling tired and sleepy in class, will not set you off on the best foot to becoming a successful student.
- Ensure you log your sleeping patterns, set a schedule and stick to it. Forming a **good sleeping habit** will allow you to stay in good health and focus on your goals!

- **Study smart**

- You will need to study a lot during school. It would be pretty impossible to achieve the required skills and knowledge to become a success, unless you put in all the effort and commitment that studying needs.
- Every Christian student will have a different way of studying, collating information, and organizing their study periods so that they can be more productive and efficient.
- Some students may prefer to study with other students in a study group, while others prefer to be free from distraction and study alone.

Study Groups Vs. Studying Alone

- **Study groups** are a great way to share ideas and explain things out loud to one another, it will also help to get used to pronouncing Christian words.
- However, **studying alone** can ensure you avoid any distractions if your fellow students aren't as committed as you are.
- You need to work out the best method for you, as there will be a lot of studying to do through the entire school journey.
- Furthermore, don't be afraid to try out new studying methods, which will help you notice what works best for you.

- Take a day or some hours to relax
- All work and no play will lead to Christian students feeling **burned out**, overwhelmed, and tired. You need to let your body and mind take some time away to relax so that you can **recharge and refresh**.
- Having a day to relax won't make you a less successful student; on the contrary, it'll give you the motivation and focus on continuing working towards your dream.
- It will be far easier to commit to your goal when you have the right balance between studying and relaxing.

Overcoming Academic Challenges with Christ-centered Resilience

1

Pray for Strength

In moments of difficulty, we turn to prayer, seeking God's strength and guidance to overcome academic hurdles.

2

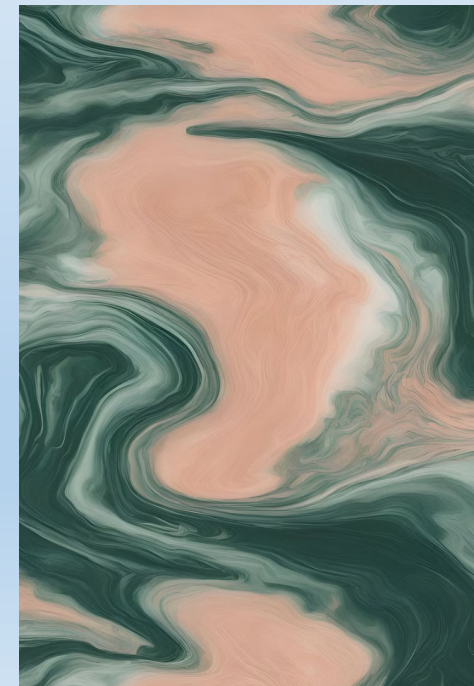
Embrace God's Sovereignty

We trust in God's plan, knowing that even challenges can be opportunities for growth and learning.

3

Seek Support

We reach out to mentors, friends, and family for support and encouragement, building a network of faith-based community.



THE EASY AND THE HARD

We all have the same question: Why is life so tough?

Well, there's an answer to that.

- Bad is easy. Good is hard.
- Losing is easy. Winning is hard.
- Talking is easy. Listening is hard.
- Watching TV is easy. Reading is hard
- Giving advice is easy. Taking advice is hard.
- Flab is easy. Muscle is hard.
- Stop is easy. Go is hard.
- Dirty is easy. Clean is hard.
- Take is easy. Give is hard.
- Dream is easy. Think is hard.
- Lying is easy. Truth is hard.
- Sleeping is easy. Waking is hard
- Criticizing is easy. Taking criticism is hard.
- Talking about God is easy. Praying to God is hard.
- Watching basketball is easy. Playing basketball is hard
- Holding a grudge is easy. Forgiving is hard.
- Telling a secret is easy. Keeping a secret is hard.
- Play is easy. Work is hard.
- Falling is easy. Getting up is hard.
- Spending is easy. Saving is hard.
- Eating is easy. Dieting is hard.
- Doubt is easy. Faith is hard.

- Laughter is easy. Tears are hard.
- Letting go is easy. Hanging on is hard.
- Secret sin is easy. Confession is hard.
- Pride is easy. Humility is hard.
- Excusing oneself is easy. Excusing others is hard.
- Borrowing is easy. Paying back is hard.
- Sex is easy. Love is hard.
- Argument is easy. Negotiation is hard.
- Naughty is easy. Nice is hard.
- Going along is easy. Walking alone is hard.
- Dumb is easy. Smart is hard.
- Cowardice is easy. Bravery is hard.
- Messy is easy. Neat is hard.
- Poor is easy. Rich is hard.

- War is easy. Peace is hard.
- Sarcasm is easy. Sincerity is hard.
- An F is easy. An A is hard.
- Growing weeds is easy. Growing flowers is hard.
- Reaction is easy. Action is hard.
- Can't do is easy. Can do is hard.
- Feasting is easy. Fasting is hard.
- Following is easy. Leading is hard.
- Having friends is easy. Being a friend is hard.
- Dying is easy. Living is hard.

- We are born, all of us, with a nature that is drawn to the easy rather than the hard. Surely you've noticed that no child ever has to be taught to be naughty; we're all born knowing how. It's easy for us. What's hard is learning to be good.
- Knowing that such experiences are part of the deal gives us opportunities to choose to do hard things. Constant challenges make our journey exhilarating, wonderfully fulfilling, never, never boring. As the Arabs, put it, "All sunshine makes a desert."
- And here's a small secret that most sad and lonely people never learn: Deep down inside, we are all asking the same question. No matter who you are, life is hard, and we all ask why it should be so.
- Easy is its own reward. Hard is much finer ----Beverly Heirich

Pursuing Excellence without Idolizing Grades or Accolades

100%

God's Glory

Our primary focus is on glorifying God in our academic endeavors, rather than seeking external validation.

100%

Inner Transformation

We strive for genuine growth in knowledge and character, recognizing that true excellence comes from within.



Conclusion: Leaving a Lasting Impact for the Kingdom

By embracing a Christ-centered approach to academics, we can not only excel in our studies, but also make a lasting impact for the Kingdom.



END

THANK YOU



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