

A wicker basket with a dark blue interior and a vintage suitcase with a tan and orange striped pattern are resting on a dark, textured surface. The basket is in the upper left, and the suitcase is in the lower right. The title 'Moving On' is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the image.

# *Moving On*

Know where you're going and how to get there

**LeaderTrek**s®

**Doug  
Franklin**





A black and white photograph of a wicker chair and a suitcase. The chair is in the upper left, and the suitcase is in the lower right, lying on its side. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

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**Doug Franklin**



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# ***Moving On***

We've all sat at the dining room table while our parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents stare us down and wait for the answer to their questions about our future. Sometimes the questions are open ended...

*So where are you going to college? Will that internship look good on your resume? Have you applied anywhere yet? What are you going to study?*

And sometimes the questions are a little more directed...

*Your uncle is a doctor...maybe you could shadow him? Your grandpa was really athletic, he got a full ride scholarship to Rice University...have you tried out for the basketball team yet? When your sister got elected senior class president, it made all the difference on her college applications...have you thought about running for student government?*

But ultimately, it comes down to...

***What are you going to do with your life!!!!?***

Insecurities about our future are something we all face, everyday, but they seem to be worse at times of transition; like when we are starting a new school year, or facing a graduation. So whether we are looking for a job, trying out for a team or in a serious relationship, transitions can force us to ask the hard questions about our future, and it can be daunting to try and find a clear answer.

This book is meant to help you sort through the clues God has already been giving you along the way. It's not meant to show you a Magic 8 ball view of your life, but simply to help you map out a picture of your future from the web of experiences, gifts and skills that God has already been weaving together in your life.





## *How Does This Book Work?*

**T**his book is about you. It's packed with illustrations, life stories from the Bible, and wisdom from people who have lived intentionally and have left impact. But each one of the stories is just an example of how someone read the clues that God was giving them in their lives. They uncovered their direction from His leading. This book is based on the following process:

**Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission**

Each session takes you through a series of hard questions, discovery, and interaction with these clues. The things that break your heart (burdens), the things you love to do and that bring joy to your life (passions), and the things you dream about (vision), are all breadcrumbs to lead you toward life on a mission with Christ. By figuring out your mission, you'll be more equipped to handle moving on into your next transition.





# Table Of Contents

On the Road .....	1
Burden .....	9
Passion .....	21
Vision .....	33
Mission .....	45
So Now What? .....	55
<b>Appendix</b>	
Passion Survey .....	62
Unique Abilities Profile .....	76
Spiritual Gift Assessment .....	82

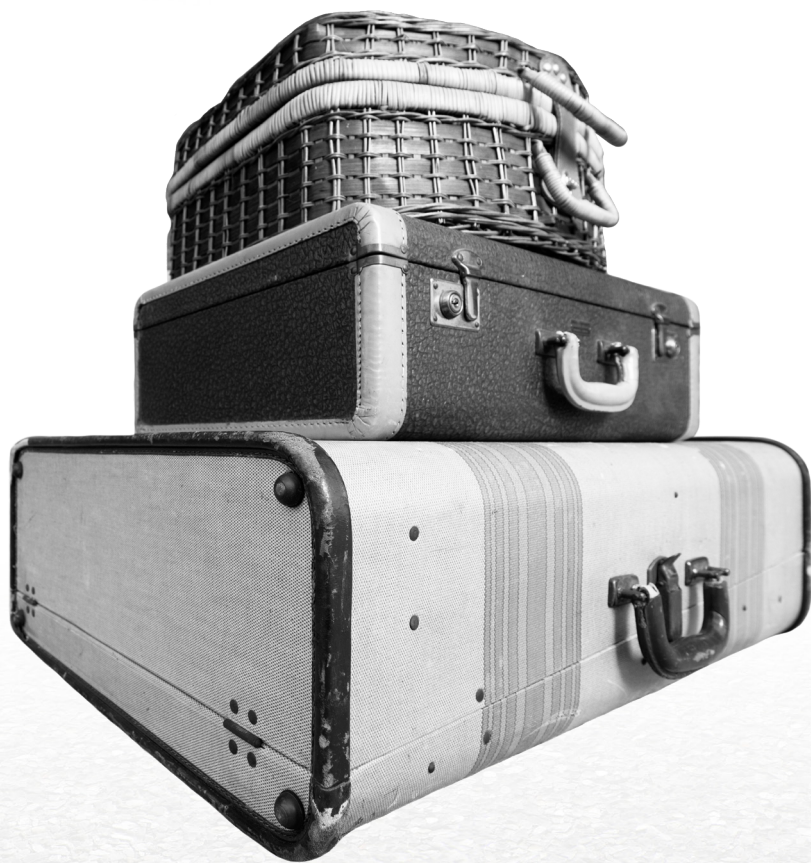






# Chapter 1

# *On The Road*







## On The Road

Crystal was walking into unknown territory. Even after just graduating from a private college prep high school, she still wasn't that sure about college. After all, she was the first one in her family to even consider it. Her parents had put together money to make the private high school an option after seeing that the community school was going downhill. So Crystal went and ate it up. From dramas and sports to mission trips and retreats, she made sure that she took advantage of every opportunity. She even spent the summer right after graduation in the Dominican Republic, working at an orphanage. Crystal had gained a ton of experiences, and learned what seemed like a million things in high school, but one thing she was still clueless on was college.

Coming right off of her summer in the Dominican, Crystal had one week before she would arrive at her dorm. Everyone seemed to think this was barely enough time to get ready, so Crystal started right away. She emptied her duffle from her summer away, and began tossing in clothes until it filled up. She had lived the past 8 weeks out of that duffle, so to only fill it with clothes really seemed overboard. But hey, that was college right? Heading to the closet, Crystal yanked out a spare blanket and some sheets. She put those in a box, along with 3 pairs of shoes. She topped it off with a Ziploc bag containing her tooth-brush, shampoo and hairspray. Taping the box shut, she put it next to her duffle and looked around. She was ready. Why had everyone been making such a big deal about this? So Crystal soaked up her last week with her friends before loading her stuff in the car and making her trek into a new life.

Arriving at the dorm, Crystal was greeted by several RA's who were assigned to help the new students move in. Three of them came out to her car to put her stuff on a cart, and literally laughed when they saw the duffle and box. Crystal shrugged as one of the guys unloaded her belongings and they walked up to her dorm room to meet her two roommates, Michelle and Renee. They must have been super eager about college because they were long moved in, and when they showed her the room, Crystal began to realize how unprepared she was.

Michelle already had pictures up, and books on her bookshelves. She had slippers and matching towels, and her desk was completely maxed out in supplies. The radio





(which Renee had brought) was playing, and Renee was trying to stuff the last of her clothes into the dresser. As Crystal went to see the bathroom, she saw that her roommates had brought their own plastic shelving that was set up and filled. It didn't take long for her to realize why everyone was so concerned about having only a week to get ready for college. Why did everyone need so much stuff anyways?

So Crystal filled two whole drawers of her dresser and made her bed, before she wandered down the hall to meet the rest of the floor. As the week went on, Crystal had a blast getting to know new people and a new city. But when school officially started, things changed. Everyone fell into routine and Crystal felt like a nomad. She was constantly borrowing things off Michelle's desk, from pens and paper to 3 ring binders. At night, when she couldn't fall asleep, she desperately missed her music collection and found herself trying to find something off Renee's bookshelf that would put her to sleep. When Crystal's friendships grew deeper, people would show her pictures and ask her about home and what she loved to do back home. This only sent her into a deep longing for her guitar, soccer cleats, and pictures of her family.

After the first couple weeks at school, Crystal sat on her bed surrounded by Michelle and Renee's worlds, and realized that nothing in this room or at this college resembled who she was. She felt lost. She had nothing to show for the first 18 years of her life, and she was tired of borrowing everything. It wasn't long before Crystal began making mental lists of what she would bring back the next time she went home.

It sounds ridiculous, but we often treat the next stage of our lives like Crystal treated college. It's a chance to be a minimalist, to purge all the things that have been taking up our physical and mental space. It's a chance to start over and be someone new, paving a new course that is in no way attached to our old journey.

Whether it's college, a career, or a new adventure, it's easy to think about the things we want to leave behind; what's hard is to remember the things we must bring with us. Things that resemble and remind us of who we are, where we've come from, what we love, and what we've overcome.





Crystal began college void of so many things that made up her identity. She had left behind valuable experiences and tools that had the potential to help her forge her own path. So instead, unequipped, she just tagged along on everyone else's journey. That's the danger of moving on to the next step in life without taking along the clues that God has given us so far. Through experiences, and a whole series of "likes" and "dislikes," God has been offering us pieces to the puzzle that can lead us into the adventure of a lifetime with Him. For years, He has been offering us breadcrumbs to show us the way and help us move on.

These breadcrumbs may not be huge events that stop us in our tracks. They may be small moments that trigger something deeper. They may be as simple as taking an inventory of your past experiences and deciphering what you want to keep as a part of your experience for the future. It may seem far-fetched, but if you absolutely love soccer and hate science, it may actually be some God-given clue to the next steps in your journey (not that it's an excuse to blow off necessary disciplines). The God that carefully knit us together gave us passions that would fuel our energy and focus.

Or what about those experiences that we are trying to forget about? You know, when your parents got a divorce two years ago, and college is your first chance to get away and escape the broken semblance of your family life. Maybe, that experience was a clue to the things that you are burdened for, and it would make you more equipped than most to encourage others in broken families. Another breadcrumb along the way.

**Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission**

The next pages in this book are designed to help you identify the things you can't and shouldn't live without, the valuables that ought to be the first things put into your suitcase. We're going to take a look at the different clues God has given you so far (burdens, passions, and vision) and use them to point you to the mission God has for you. Crystal took the minimalist approach to moving on, and in the physical sense, it's not all that bad. But to really hear God's voice and decipher the direction He has for you, we can't take the minimalist approach to packing for our journey with Him. There are clues we must pack, along with a compass to help us know where He wants





us to go. If you have found yourself asking questions about what you should do with your future, take some time to really pour into the next pages, and more importantly, to train your ear to hear His voice along the way.

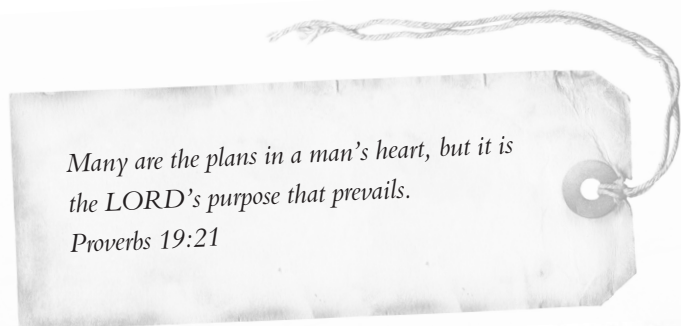
This book is divided into three main sections that guide you through these different areas:

**Burden:** What breaks your heart.

**Passion:** What brings you to life.

**Vision:** What God is telling you to do.

Through identifying and wrestling with these clues, this book will lead you through creating a mission statement that will help you navigate and walk confidently on this next part of your journey with Him.





## Your Starting Point

One of the cool things about moving on is that it's not the start of your first journey. As you get ready for the road ahead, you are not starting from scratch. It's like beginning to train for a marathon after you've run a half marathon. You've already gone through a lot of training, your muscles are developed, your habits and your form have been established. You are much better prepared for starting this new phase than you were when you started your last journey.

Think about the last time you had to "move on" and really face a new road ahead. Maybe it was a literal move your family made. Maybe it was the start of high school, a new sport, job, or summer internship. Consider those experiences as part of the training. Spend a few minutes answering the following questions and identifying your strengths as you move on.

How are you different at this starting line than you were at the beginning of your last one?

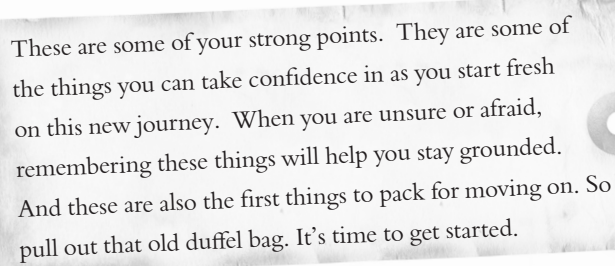
What qualities, or character traits have you grown in and developed? (i.e. confidence, wisdom, peacemaking, humility)

What skills have you developed or grown in?



How have you grown spiritually?

What solid relationships have you made or developed?



These are some of your strong points. They are some of the things you can take confidence in as you start fresh on this new journey. When you are unsure or afraid, remembering these things will help you stay grounded. And these are also the first things to pack for moving on. So pull out that old duffel bag. It's time to get started.



We've all sat at the dining room table while our families and friends stare us down, waiting expectantly for the answer we wish we had.

***So what are you going to do with your life? What's next?***

We face these questions every time there's a transition. Going to college. Getting a job. Moving. Changing schools. Every time we find ourselves moving on, we have a chance to start something new, reinvent a part of ourselves, and bring our future into focus. The only problem is, there's often more questions than answers when it comes to figuring out what's next. What should I do? Where should I go? What does God want me to do?

The good news is that God has been dropping clues for you along the way. What we see as a tangled web of experiences or emotions, he sees as a woven masterpiece. And when we look at our lives from a different perspective, we can begin to see some of these clues.

**Moving On** will help you identify these clues by walking through this formula of

**Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission**

These clues come from our past, our gifts, our skills and our experiences. They are the answers we already have, and when we put them together, the road ahead gets a little more clear.



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