

FAITH PATH RECIPE CARD

Rite of Passage

BEST USE

Even the most simple rite of passage experience can have a profound impact on your child's life. Ask yourself the following questions to plan the best approach for your son or daughter.

ASSESS

- Is our relationship strong enough for the experience to feel authentic instead of forced?
- Does my child have other adults in his/her life who have enough influence to participate in such an experience?
- Does my teen show signs he/she is ready to move toward adult responsibilities and attitudes?

If you answer no to any of these questions it might be better to plan a special dinner alone together to begin meaningful dialogue rather than attempt the full rite of passage experience.

WHEN

- What day is best to make this event special? On a birthday? In conjunction with a holiday? As a special day of its own?
- What date would work best for those who might need to travel to participate?

WHO

- What relatives should participate? Grandparent? Respected aunt or uncle? Older brother or sister?
- Is the child close to the student pastor, lead pastor, teacher, or coach he/she respects?
- If you are not planning the event as a surprise, invite your teen to suggest who he/she would like to include.

HOW

- Would my child prefer a more formal or casual experience?
- What would be a good setting for the event? House, Grandparents' home, church, a favorite restaurant, the park?
- What kind of fun activity would our child like to do with the older men or women before the formal portion of the event?

To help you explain the event to those you invite to participate and provide them with guidance for crafting a meaningful letter, reference the resources inside this packet.

For additional ideas on planning, we recommend the book ***Spiritual Milestones*** by Jim & Janet Weidmann, J. Otis and Gail Ledbetter.