

RITE OF PASSAGE

Give A Vision for Adulthood

WHAT IS RITE OF PASSAGE?

A Rite of Passage is a special event signifying a transition from one stage to another. This is an ideal time to affirm and help your child anticipate and prepare to accept God's plan for the future. Challenge your teen to leave behind the world of childhood and invite them into the ranks of emerging adulthood.

HOW TO DO A RITE OF PASSAGE

It is less important *how* you plan your child's Rite of Passage than *that* you plan it. Some families host a simple dinner with family and close friends. Others do something more elaborate such as a road trip adventure with various stops. Decide and plan what works best for your teen and your situation.

Step One: Create A Plan

Create a plan to make this a meaningful experience. Read one of the recommended resources for more Ideas or utilize the *Rite of Passage* Recipe Card provided with this kit. A small investment of thought and effort will mean a great deal to your son or daughter.

Step Two: Invite People

Invite people who have had an impact in your teen's life and/or whom they respect. Give each person a specific topic on which he or she will speak or write a letter. Some topics may include work, marriage, integrity, faith, purity, family, etc.

Step Three: Make It Easy

Make it easy for others to participate by providing them with recommended wording for their talk or letter. In order to help them avoid becoming nervous or attending ill-prepared. See included sample letters in this kit.

GIVE A BLESSING

It is very important that parents use this milestone to give a blessing, usually in the form of a letter affirming the teen's potential and expressing gratitude for his or her life. For more on the power or process of giving a blessing, review the *Blessing* kit (available from WRBC).

GIVE A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Take time to provide direction for the future. Cast vision and direct your child in seeking the Lord as they enter a season of significant decisions that will impact the future.

GIVE A GIFT

Consider purchasing or making something to give your teen during this time. It doesn't need to be extravagant. It is more important that it serve as a tangible keepsake of the event that your child can hold on to for years to come. Ideas include a piece of jewelry, a book of letters/blessings, a sword for guys or a crown for girls.

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SET THE STAGE

The Rite of Passage event serves an opportunity to set a new tone for the changing relationship with your child. Your role is changing from primarily teacher to mostly coach as he or she accepts the new freedoms and responsibilities that accompany young adulthood. Let your child know that you will be there to help them navigate the landmines as they take ownership for choices and future walk with God. Plan to create intentional one-on-one times to connect and keep the lines of communication open over the coming months and years.

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for my child.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- Bless my child daily.
- Create a habit of worship with my child.
- Serve together as a family.
- Schedule a time to bless and give my child a vision for the future.
- _____

The next step on the Faith Path is *Launch*, recommended at age eighteen. Request the *Launch* kit by emailing Emily@waterlooroad.org

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Disciple Her: Using the Word, Work, and Wonder of God to Invest in Women by Kandi Gallaty

In His Image: 10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect His Character by Jenn Wilkin

King Me by Steve Farrar

Life on the Edge by Dr. James Dobson

Raising a Modern-Day Knight by Robert Lewis

Rite of Passage by Jim McBride

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