Rite of Passage

Family
Milestone 6
Family Milestone 6: Rite of Passage

Becoming an adult is a welcome yet daunting task for most teenagers. The new-found freedom and relaxed structure lead to excitement as students embrace a new world. What students often don’t see is the responsibility associated with their new freedom. For every good decision to be made, an equally negative one can result in life-altering consequences.

Parents have an amazing responsibility to prepare their son or daughter to embrace growing up from all perspectives. The Family Milestone Path places this time of transition to occur around age sixteen. Most students will get their driver’s license and keys to either their car or a shared vehicle. This will give them an unprecedented feeling of freedom. Yet before engaging this new freedom, parents must prepare their adolescent to see this freedom through God’s heart.

The Biblical Roles of Men and Women

Understanding the Biblical characteristics and roles of men and women will help teenagers grasp God’s heart for them. Influences from all areas of life constantly beg for your teenager’s attention. Many will attempt to re-define manhood and womanhood. What examples of this do you see in culture today?

- The feminization of men
- The lie that men and women are the same
- Women need to dress a certain way to attract men’s attention
- Men lusting after women is normal and should be expected
- Happiness and the accumulation of stuff is deserved and a valid life goal
- Lying and cheating is appropriate if the end result is “good”

Throughout Scripture, God defines what a man and woman should look like. Leading your son or daughter well through this phase is critical to developing a Biblical worldview. Learning to evaluate everything through the lens of Scripture will enable your son or daughter to see through lies they will encounter each day.
What is a man?

> Lover of God. (Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37)
> Lover of Others. (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:38)
> Loyal (Hosea 6:6)
> A Servant Leader (Matthew 20:26-27)
> Kind (Ephesians 4:32)
> Humble (Philippians 2:3)
> Honest (Ephesians 4:35)
> Self-Disciplined (1 Timothy 4:7-8)
> Excellence (1Corinthians 9:24)
> Integrity (Proverbs 10:9)
> Perseverance (Galatians 6:9)

Finding Biblical Balance

![Balance Image]

Strength & Power

- Loyalty
- Purity
- Self-Disciplined
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Perseverance

Gentleness & Tenderness

- Lover of God
- Lover of Others
- Servant Leadership
- Kindness
- Humility
- Honesty

What is the Biblical Role of a Man?

"Then God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded him saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.' Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'”

Genesis 2:15-18
From one of the earliest passages of Scripture, we see God’s role for man:

1. Obedience to God’s will (A will to obey)
2. Work the ground (A work to do)
3. Love his wife (A woman to love)

Jesus modeled these characteristics and these roles perfectly:

1. A Will to Obey (John 5:30)
2. A Work to Do (John 17:3-5)
3. A Woman to Love (Revelation 21:9)

Jesus modeled each of these to the point of death...

How are dads to model this for their child? How are you modeling this?

Four Principles of Biblical Manhood in an unbiblical world...

1. Reject Passivity – Proverbs 28:1
3. Lead Courageously – Deuteronomy 3:6
4. Expect the Greater Reward – Revelation 22:12-13

What is a woman?

Lover of God (Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37)

Lover of Others (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:38)

Proverbs 31

:: Noble (10, 25)
:: Respected (28)
:: Diligent (13)
:: Early Riser (15)
:: Provider (14)
Family Milestone 6: Rite of Passage

>: Steward (15-16)
>: Wise (16, 26)
>: Strong (25)
>: Persistent (19, 27)
>: Resourceful (18, 21-22)
>: Hospitable (20)
>: Confident (18)
>: Happy (25)
>: Faithful (27, 30)
>: Blessed (28-31)

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life” Proverbs 4:23

Who are some examples of godly, Biblical women?

What is the Biblical Role of a Woman?

A man is the spiritual leader of the home.

A woman is the spiritual heart of the home.

>: Through relationships...
  o God
  o Marriage
  o Family
  o Friends

>: Through mission...
  o Church
  o Community
  o Finding Balance

>: Through reflection:
  o Knowing Who She Is
  o Walking the Talk

How do I teach my son or daughter to embrace these roles?

Family Faith Talks: At this busy stage of life, it is tempting to stop having family faith talks because of the challenge of multiple individual schedules and the reality that your child is becoming an adult. However, weekly intentional times of conversation around the Scripture couldn’t be
more important through this time. Committing to family Faith Talks will model the importance of family above individual schedules and busyness of life. It will also model the importance of staying connected to God and His Word when life is crazy.

**God Moments:** Spend time with your child. The time you spend will supply ample opportunities to speak into your child’s life. Capitalizing on God Moments will give you the opportunity to informally guide him through the pitfalls of life. Years from now, you will probably be the one he still calls for advice and a fresh perspective.

**Modeling:** During this stage, your son or daughter will watch you intently to see if you are living out your own teaching. He will catch your behavior, responses and priorities. Model well.

**Spiritual Gifts and Service**

As a child progresses toward becoming an adult, it becomes more and more obvious of the certain ways God has wired him. Children will share many attributes of their parents but also develop characteristics and passions that are unique. Parents have an important responsibility to help their child discover how God has wired them.

Spiritual Gifts – Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit when a person becomes a Christ-follower. They are used to build up the church (body of Christ). A person will have one or more spiritual gifts God has given to be used in the church.

**Student Small Groups:** During your child’s 9th grade year, she will discuss Spiritual Gifts within our Student ministry. This is a great time to follow along and help guide the discussion with your child. They are wired uniquely to honor God with their lives.

**Additional Resources:** First Baptist provides additional resources to help guide your student to understand how God has gifted her.

Talents and Abilities – God wires every person uniquely. Becoming a student of your child will help you understand how God has made him and what talents and abilities he possesses. Helping him discover talents and abilities will help him learn to serve in ways that challenge and encourage him according to the strengths God has given him.
Passions – Talk to your son or daughter about passions he or she may have. These could range drastically and change throughout her adolescent and young adult years. Help her understand and evaluate her passions in light of Scripture. God can use a God-given passion in a person’s life to accomplish great things.

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

Spiritual gifts are always given to build up the body of Christ. Discovering one’s gift can be exciting but be cautious to help your son or daughter understand that it isn’t about him or her. Gifts are given to serve others.

Serve Together

One of the most powerful opportunities parents have is to expose their children to serving together as a family. Take opportunities often to serve others as a family and encourage your child to look out for the interests of others always.

First Baptist Opportunities:

: > Local projects
: > Student Small Group ministries
: > National and International Mission Trips
: > Christian Care Center and others

As a result, your son or daughter will develop a love for serving others that he will pass down to future generations.
Rite of Passage Ceremony

The Rite of Passage Ceremony will hopefully be one of the most memorable experiences of your son or daughter’s life. It is the moment when you visually begin to release her to adulthood. This Family Milestone is recommended to take place around the age of 16, but you must decide when your student is ready. The ceremony should require sacrifice on your part as parents and should be a meaningful event.

Why celebrate a Rite of Passage?

1. **Remembrance** – a memory of commitment
2. **Reminder** – a reminder of commitment
3. **Reference** – accountability of commitment

Preparation - The most important aspect of the Rite of Passage ceremony is the years of preparation that will go into your son or daughter. The ceremony is the culmination of years of investment. Without the investment, the ceremony is merely ceremony. With years of pouring into your son or daughter, Rite of Passage becomes an ownership event. Your student will now own his faith and take responsibility for his actions. He will still have a couple of years at home but the change will progress rapidly.

How do you prepare:

- Consistent weekly investment of Truth into your son or daughter (Family Faith Talks and God Moments, Celebrating the Family Milestones and Walking the Family Milestone Path)
- Daily praying as a couple and individually for your student
- Daily praying with your student
- Creating family moments (meals, vacations, days away)
- Family Traditions
- Involvement in your student’s life (sports, school, shopping, fishing, etc)
- Communicating every day
Planning the Event

Step 1: Choose a date, place and nature of the event (formal, one-gender only).

Step 2: Formulate a guest list – those who have invested in your child through prayer, discipleship, etc.

Step 3: Send invitations

Step 4: Prepare an agenda

  > What will happen?
  > Expectations of your son or daughter – Communicate to your son or daughter what he or she will be required to know and/or say.
  > The Charge – Charge your son or daughter to become a man or woman of God.
  > Gift Presentation – Present your son or daughter with an appropriate gift to remember the occasion.
  > The Blessing – Write a blessing to your child concerning his or her passage to adulthood. Comment on the journey you’ve been on together and the hope of great days ahead.

Step 5: Memory Tokens for Guests

Characteristics of a Rite of Passage Ceremony:

  > Mysterious
  > Sacrificial
  > Well-planned
  > Touted
  > Priority
  > Memorable

The Rite of Passage Family Milestone will be an entry to adulthood. Prepare your student to embrace the world of freedom and responsibility with a Biblical worldview and foundation.
Family Milestone 6

Rite Of Passage

**Family Milestone Champion:** Student Minister

**Family Celebration:** Freedom License Ceremony

**Parent Seminar:** "Preparing My Student for Adulthood"  This seminar covers topics like: The Biblical Roles of Men and Women, Spiritual Training of Teens, Parent Roles and Church Roles, Rite of Passage: The How To, and Following Up After You Have Completed the Rite of Passage.

**Core Competencies:** Roles of Men and Women, Spiritual Gifts and Service.

The passing of a teen into adulthood is a significant event. Biblically, we must equip our teenagers to become men and women of God. Age 16 is a significant time of freedom in our culture. Freedom License is not about keys to the car; instead, it is about becoming a man or woman of God. In our seminar we will equip you to disciple your freshmen and sophomore student for adulthood. Issues such as spiritual gifts, the roles of men and women, spiritual disciplines, service in the church, dealing with failure, and other Biblical issues will be explored both in your family devotion and on the church campus. We teach parents to host a very special Freedom License Ceremony as the discipleship process has been completed and the student enters his or her 16th year of life.
RESOURCES:

Rite of Passage – A Father’s Blessing
By Jim McBride

The Five Languages of Teenagers
by Gary Chapman

Biblical Foundations for Manhood and Womanhood
by Wayne A Grudem

Raising a Modern-Day Knight
by Robert Lewis

Raising a Modern-Day Princess
by Pam Ferrel

A Father’s Guide to Blessing His Children
by David Michael

Spiritual Mentoring of Teens
by Joe White and Jim Weidmann