

Faith Path

Make the most of your moments.

Dear Parent,

One of the core values of First Christian Church is family. We honor God's design of the family being the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path is one way we strive to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age-appropriate kits help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this *Rite of Passage kit*, we have practical ideas and suggested resources to help give your teen a vision for adulthood. We encourage you to start today by taking the following simple steps:

STEP ONE: LEARN

We have provided a video and information for this particular Faith Path step at firstchristian.com/faithpath/rite-of-passage. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find a guide that offers practical tips and what we consider to be some of the best resources on the topic. If you would like information about upcoming Faith Path classes or events, please visit firstchristian.com/faithpath.

STEP TWO: START

To help you start, a *Rite of Passage Planning Guide* has been provided. Please begin prayerfully considering how you will invite your young person to begin embracing the responsibilities of adulthood.

We hope you find this kit helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home. Know that we are grateful to play a role in your family's growing relationship with Jesus and are honored to help you make the most of your moments.

In this together,



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FIRST CHRISTIAN
C H U R C H

Your Intentional Plan

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for and with 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. We will send a Launch kit on your child's sixteenth birthday to guide you through this next step. You can also request the kit at firstchristian.com/faithpath or at the HomeFirst Center.

Recommended Resources

- ▶ *Spiritual Milestones* from heritagebuilders.com
- ▶ *Rite of Passage* by Jim McBride
- ▶ *King Me* by Steve Farrar
- ▶ *Raising a Modern-Day Knight* by Robert Lewis
- ▶ *Life on the Edge* by Dr. James Dobson
- ▶ *Boy's Passage, Man's Journey* by Brian D. Molitor
- ▶ *Girl's Passage, Father's Duty* by Brian D. & Kathleen A. Molitor
- ▶ Student Ministry — firstchristian.com/students
- ▶ Parent Resources — firstchristian.com/family



RITE OF PASSAGE

Give a Vision for Adulthood

"DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG, BUT SET AN EXAMPLE... IN SPEECH, IN LIFE, IN LOVE, IN FAITH AND IN PURITY."

—1 TIMOTHY 4:12

What is a 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 to make this a meaningful experience. Read one of the recommended resources for more ideas or utilize the Rite of Passage Planning Sheet 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 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 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. (Download sample letters from the link in your letter.)

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 and process of giving a blessing, review the Blessing kit available at fcccanton.com/faithpath.

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.

Set the Stage

The Rite of Passage event serves as 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 him or her work through the challenges and navigate the landmines as they take ownership for choices and a 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.

Even the most simple rite of passage experience can have a powerful impact in your teen'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 vs. forced?
- Does my child have other adults in his/her life who have had enough influence to participate in such an experience?
- Does my teen show signs he/she is willing 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 dialog rather than attempt the full rite of passage experience.



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(RITE OF PASSAGE PLANNING GUIDE continued)

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 a pastor, youth minister, 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 be included.

Who

- Would my child prefer a formal event or casual experience?
- What would be a good setting for the event? The house? Grandparent's home? A favorite restaurant? The church? A park?
- What kind of fun activity would our child enjoy doing with the older men or women before the formal portion of the event? (For example, a teen boy might enjoy going to shooting range or golfing while a girl might prefer shopping or tennis.)

To help you explain the event to those you invite to participate and provide them with guidance for crafting a meaningful letter download the full planning guide from our website at fcccanton.com/fp777.

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

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