



Milestone 10: Launch (Age 18)

Guide your child into adulthood.

We've all heard the phrase "failure to launch", describing young men and women who don't make the transition into responsible adulthood. Unfortunately, many parents inadvertently keep their children from growing up, due to overprotection and lack of intentionality.

Continue to Coach...

By this time, your role in your child's life should be that of a coach. They are no longer children who need constant instruction and dependence. Hopefully you have led them to become responsible and independent followers of Christ. As your children move from high school into their next stage of life - college, military, workforce, or wherever - continue to coach them. Launch them successfully onward to living God-honoring lives. Motivate, encourage, challenge, and advise them. It is time for them to own their beliefs and choices. Work hard to maintain a strong relationship of open dialogue, even as they are launched.

Encourage them through the scriptures. Bless and remind your child of biblical principles. Here are some examples...

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father; and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind." (1 Chronicles 28:9)

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

“Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it by day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:8-9)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

One of the greatest gifts you can give your children, once they graduate, is to give them your blessing. Share with them how much you love them. Tell them what potential you see in them. Tell them what you have learned from them. Tell them what you hope for them. Tell them how you trust them. Tell them how you will continue to pray for them, be there for them, will be available for advice, and will always have a place for them in your home and life.

Plan a time to give your blessing and to share about the exciting time ahead for them. Assure them in their doubts and fears. Below is a sample of how to give your graduate your blessing.

The Greatest Gift to Give Your Graduate - Your Blessing...

“My prayer for you in your life is...”

“I hope for you to...”

“I am blessed to have you as my son/daughter. What I see in you is...”

“I trust you to...”

“Even though you are graduating and moving on in your life, I promise to...pray for you, be here for you, be there for you, be involved in your life and the lives of your children, always have a place for you, etc.”

Next Steps in Your Faith @ Home Journey...

- Pray daily for and with your child.
- Consistently spend time in God’s Word.
- Schedule and have regular family times.
- Schedule a time to give your graduate your blessing and to talk about their future.

Recommended Readings...

Prayers and Promises for the Graduate (by G.A. Myers)
College Ready (by John Bryson)