



Milestone 9: Rite of Passage (Age 15)

Give your young adult your blessing and hope for their future. Acknowledge this time of pre-independence and responsibility.

What is Rite of Passage?

A rite of passage is a special event or process that signifies the transition between one life-stage to another. Your emerging adult is transitioning from childhood to adulthood, and this is a time for you to affirm and bless your child as they prepare to accept God's plan for their future. You do this by intentionally and directly telling them...

“I love you.”

“I am proud of you.”

“You are good at...”

“My hope for your future is...”

This milestone is recommended by age 15, but, knowing your child and their stage of life, you may choose to have this even earlier. Some see age 13 as a good time to give them their blessing. It is an awesome privilege, as parents, to be able to speak words of affirmation and blessing into our children at these important stages in their life. These words will bless them and give them confidence, as a man or woman moving forward into adulthood.

How to do a Right of Passage...

Do what is most fitting and comfortable for you, your child, and your family. Some families host a simple dinner with family and close friends. Some may do something more elaborate, like taking a road trip or a camping trip. *How* you plan your child's even is much less important than *that* you plan it and do it. Here are some ideas to help you in this effort.

1. Start by creating a plan. Read one of the recommended resources. Your investment will go a long way into making this a meaningful time for your son or daughter.

2. Invite people. It is a great blessing to your child to include other people who have had a positive impact on their lives. Talk to these people about what you would like them to do or say at this event - speak, write a letter, etc. You can provide them with recommended wordings or topics to speak or write about. Include family, teachers, ministers, spiritual leaders, coaches, family friends, etc.
3. Give your blessing. Parents should write out their blessings to their children. Speak them to them at this event.
4. Give them your vision for them. Affirm in them how they are gifted and how you see God using them in His kingdom and in this world. Tell them your hope for their spiritual future, their growth in faith, life, purity, speech, and love.
5. Give them a gift. Consider buying or making something to give them to remember this milestone. A picture, a scrapbook, a piece of jewelry, a sword, a crown, etc.

Parents, your relationship with your child is changing, and your mindset should be changing from that of a teacher to that of a coach. You need to allow your child to have freedoms and responsibilities that are a part of becoming a young adult. Let them know that you trust them and that you are there to help them. Let them know that it is your desire that they become independent followers of Christ. Make plans to intentionally coach them and talk them through these next years of maturing into an adult.

As a Christian at this age, it is important that you help your child to find their role within the body of Christ. Give them opportunities to use their spiritual gifts and talents to serve God, the church, and the community around them. Expect them to lead. Expect them to be personally committed to prayer, Bible study, and involvement in the ministries of the church. Coach them through this time. Coach them to become a mature Christian.

Your young adult needs solid food, not just milk. They are ready for it! If they don't get it, they will find food, meaning, and purpose elsewhere. It will be much more difficult for them to leave their faith if they realize their role in the Lord's body now.

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 rite of passage event for your child.
- Get your child active in a ministry of the church.

Recommended Readings...

Rite of Passage: A Father's Blessing (by Jim McBride)

Raising a Modern Day Knight (by Robert Lewis)

Spiritual Milestones (by Jim and Janet Weidmann, J. Otis, and Gail Ledbetter)