



Rite of Passage

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bhaynes@kingsland.org

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Milestone 5: 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 Milestone Path places this time of transition to occur at sixteen. Most students will get their driver's license and keys to either their car or a shared vehicle. They will have an unprecedented amount of freedom. Yet before engaging this new freedom, parents must prepare their adolescent to see this freedom through God's heart.



Notes:

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 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 (1 Corinthians 9:24)
- Integrity (Proverbs 10:9)
- Perseverance (Galatians 6:9)



Finding Biblical Balance



Strength & Power

- Loyalty
- Purity
- Self-Discipline
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Perseverance

Gentleness & Tenderness

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

What is the Biblical Role of a Man?

*“The 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

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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 sons? How are you modeling this?

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

1. ***Reject Passivity*** – Proverbs 28:1
2. ***Accept Responsibility*** – Luke 12:48b
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)
- ☞ Steward (15-16)
- ☞ Wise (16, 26)
- ☞ Strong (25)
- ☞ Persistent (19, 27)
- ☞ Resourceful (18, 21-22)
- ☞ Hospitable (20)



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- 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...**
 - God
 - Marriage
 - Family
 - Friends
- Through **mission...**
 - Church
 - Community
 - Finding Balance
- Through **reflection:**
 - Knowing Who She Is
 - Walking the Talk



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

 **Faith Talks:** At this busy stage of life, it is tempting to stop having 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 children. 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

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informally guide them through the pitfalls of life. Years from now, you will probably be the one they still call 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.

Catechism - A Systematic Approach to Teaching Foundational Doctrine

Resource - *A Baptist Catechism* by John Piper

The greatest resource for preparing your child to become an adult is Catechism. Catechism walks your son or daughter through foundational doctrine. He will learn to systematically understand what Scripture teaches about God, His Word, and what it means for their lives.

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 kids discover how God has wired them.

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

Student Life Groups: During your child's 9th grade year, she will discuss Spiritual Gifts intently. 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: Kingsland provides additional resources to help guide your child to understand how God has gifted her.

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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 them 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 child's life to accomplish great things.

(Story – Loose Change to Loosen Chains)

“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.

Kingsland Opportunities:

- ☞ Caring for Katy
- ☞ ABF Mission Initiatives
- ☞ National and International Mission Trips
- ☞ Katy Christian Ministries

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.

Kingsland recommends this at age 16 but you must decide when your child 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 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 child will now own his faith and take responsibility for 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 (Faith Talks and God Moments, Celebrating the Milestones and Walking the Path)
- Daily praying as a couple and individually for your child
- Daily praying with your child
- Creating family moments (meals, vacations, days away)
- Family Traditions
- Involvement in your child'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

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- 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 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 Milestone will be an entry to adulthood. Prepare your child to embrace the world of freedom and responsibility with a Biblical worldview and foundation.