

SAMPLE BLESSING PRAYER

The following is an example of a blessing prayer a parent might pray over her child during a Rite of Passage event to affirm the child and cast a vision for her future.

Dear Heavenly Father:

Thank you for the gift DAUGHTER'S NAME is to me, to our family and to every person in this room. I give you praise for creating her with such unique gifts.

MENTION SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.

I am so proud of the young woman name is becoming and I ask you to give DAUGHTER strength and grace as she continues moving from the world of childhood into the joys and responsibilities of becoming a Godly woman. In this moment we celebrate the life DAUGHTER has lived so far and the exciting road she will travel into a special future.

MENTION SPECIFIC GOALS/OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Lord, you know how much I love DAUGHTER'S NAME. You know that I will do anything within my power to help her reach her God-given potential. But, unlike the years behind us, DAUGHTER'S NAME is moving into the season of life in which she must own more of her own faith and character formation. Please guide DAUGHTER'S NAME on that journey and continue to nurture within her a passion for you and the wisdom to make wise choices. Finally, I ask you to pour out your blessings on my DAUGHTER'S future. I can't wait to see how you will use her in coming days.

In the name of Christ our Lord,
Amen.



FAITHMAP



**Rite of Passage Event
Planning Guide**
for your Daughter

Even the most simple Rite of Passage experiences can have a powerful impact in your teen's life. Ask yourself the following questions to plan the best approach for your daughter.

ASSESS

- Is our relationship strong enough for the experience to feel authentic vs. forced?
- Does my daughter have other adults in her life who have had enough influence to participate in such an experience?
- Does my teen show signs 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.

WHEN

- What day is best to make this a special event? 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, Older sister)
- Is the child close to a pastor, youth minister, teacher or coach she respects?

A WOMAN AND HER GOD

(Assigned To: NAME)

Goal of Letter:

As a woman who has demonstrated what it means to love and serve God, NAME will charge DAUGHTER to take responsibility for her own spiritual growth.

Possible Bible Passages:

- Proverbs 19:23 (Fear of God = Life)
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 (Whole duty of man)
- Mark 12:30 (Love God with whole heart, soul and mind)

Suggestions:

- Tell DAUGHTER about your own faith journey including when and how you first became a follower of Jesus.
- Describe your hopes and prayer for DAUGHTER as she continues to grow in faith and pursue the God you love.

The Charge:

End the letter with a "charge" to DAUGHTER to take responsibility for developing her own relationship with God, building on but no longer relying upon her parents' faith.

Possible Gift/Symbol:

A Bible or an appropriate Christian book such as SUGGEST A SPECIFIC BOOK YOUR DAUGHTER MIGHT LIKE with signatures/notes written within from all women in attendance.

A WOMAN AND HER MARRIAGE

(Assigned To: NAME)

Goal of Letter:

As a woman who has demonstrated what it means to be a Godly wife, NAME will charge DAUGHTER to start being faithful to her future husband now by keeping herself pure.

Possible Bible Verses

- Genesis 2:18 (Not good to be alone)
- I Timothy 2:9 (Protect modesty)
- Ephesians 5:33 (Respect your husband)
- Philippians 4:8 (Keep mind pure)

Suggestions:

- Tell a story of the excitement of falling in love with your husband.
- Describe how a pure & passionate husband/wife relationship is a wonderful gift from God – something DAUGHTER should be eager to find and jealous to protect even before marriage.
- Talk about how much more dangerous it is today than in the past ... temptations, giving away your heart/body, etc.
- Talk about sexual purity as a gift to herself and her future husband.
- Describe the “for better or worse” realities of dealing with difficulties in marriage and the call to remain true to her commitment/fidelity regardless of what comes.

The Charge:

Charge DAUGHTER to guard her mind and body in regards to purity in order to begin fidelity and faithfulness to her future husband NOW. Charge her to eagerly anticipate the wonderful gift of intimacy with her husband.

Possible Gift/Symbol:

A three stranded piece of rope symbolizing the unity of husband, wife and God, a piece of art about love, a heart necklace.

- If you are not planning the event as a surprise, invite your teen to suggest who she would like to be included.

HOW

- Would my daughter 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 daughter enjoy doing with the older women before the formal portion of the event? (For example, a teen girl might enjoy going shopping, a group manicure, or tennis.)

For additional ideas on planning, we recommend the book ***Spiritual Milestones*** by Jim & Janet Wideman & J. Otis and Gail Ledbetter (available to check out from the Parenting Ministry Library).

For an electronic copy of this planning guide, contact Levie.Chustz@thechapelbr.com.

The following collection of documents is intended to help you create a meaningful Rite of Passage experience for your sixteen, seventeen or eighteen-year-old child. As you plan an event to celebrate the transition from childhood into the world of emerging adults, feel free to copy, edit or borrow from these sample materials. Consider them mere suggestions and guidelines as you do what best fits your family.

DAUGHTER'S RITE OF PASSAGE EVENT SUMMARY

Use this template to include with letters you send to the women you ask to participate.

THE PURPOSE: To celebrate DAUGHTER'S transition toward an emerging adult and to formally invite her to join the ranks of women by accepting responsibility for her own spiritual growth.

THE PLAN: Several Christian women who have influenced DAUGHTER'S life will spend time discussing womanhood and inviting her to move beyond childhood by accepting responsibility for becoming a woman of God.

THE EVENT: Each woman is asked to write a short letter to DAUGHTER on the assigned topic to read during the evening ceremony and present some small item/gift that is symbolic of their topic/charge. The gift should be personally significant and could be one overall gift. DAUGHTER will be invited to read her own letter accepting the invitation to womanhood and then MOM'S NAME will lead the women in a blessing prayer. The day/evening agenda is as follows...

FUN ACTIVITY: The women and DAUGHTER will go someplace in the afternoon together to enjoy a fun activity (i.e. pedicure, shopping, girl movie, etc.) after which all will go to dinner or coffee for an informal discussion about your own experience of accepting the responsibilities and challenges of becoming a woman.

A WOMAN AND HER CHILDREN

(Assigned To: NAME)

Goal of Letter:

As a woman who has modeled what it means to make being a mom her highest priority, NAME will charge DAUGHTER to look forward to and prepare herself for motherhood.

Possible Bible Passages:

- Proverbs 20:7 (Integrity is caught by our children)
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:4 (Teach your children)

Suggestions:

- Describe the feeling of becoming a mother.
- Discuss how a mother should model the character of God to her children which makes fostering virtue through spiritual disciplines very important.
- Discuss how womanhood = sacrificing yourself for your children, rather than living for yourself.

The Charge:

End the letter with a "charge" to DAUGHTER to take responsibility for developing habits of integrity, patience and selfless service NOW in anticipation of the honor of someday becoming a mother.

Possible Gift/Symbol:

A family heirloom quilt or baby blanket – signifying that DAUGHTER can look forward to bringing other lives into the world through the self-sacrificial beauty of motherhood,.

A WOMAN AND HER MINISTRY

(Assigned To: NAME)

Goal of Letter:

As a woman who has been an important “minister” in DAUGHTER’S life NAME will charge DAUGHTER to fulfill her part in the larger body of Christ.

Possible Bible Passages:

- 1 Corinthians 12:27 (We are an important part of the body)
- 1 Timothy 4:12 (Even the young should minister)
- 2 Corinthians 5:18 (All are called to the ministry of reconciliation)

Suggestions:

- Tell about when/how you knew you were called to minister
- Tell why “ministry” isn’t just limited to those in vocational church ministry.
- Talk about the need to remain connected to the church and to eventually guide a family by taking them to church and serving, etc.
- Emphasize the overall “ministry of reconciliation” to which all women are called.
- Possibly touch upon how you’ve seen DAUGHTER serve and possible places/situations in which she may be called to “minister” in the future such as in college, the workplace, at church, at home, in the community, etc.

The Charge:

End the letter with a “charge” to DAUGHTER to take responsibility to always seek a place to use her gifts in God’s service.

Possible Gift/Symbol:

A “Certificate of Ministry” or a cross necklace– signifying that DAUGHTER is part of the larger body of Christ.

CEREMONY: We will gather at LOCATION at TIME for the formal ceremony. Your assigned topics are listed in the agenda below and suggested ideas for your letter are attached.

Invitations to Godly Womanhood

A Woman and Her Relationships
(NAME OF WOMAN ASSIGNED)

A Woman and Her Work
(NAME OF WOMAN ASSIGNED)

A Woman and Her Ministry
(NAME OF WOMAN ASSIGNED)

A Woman and Her Children
(NAME OF WOMAN ASSIGNED)

A Woman and Her Marriage
(NAME OF WOMAN ASSIGNED)

A Woman and Her God
(NAME OF WOMAN ASSIGNED)

Acceptance: DAUGHTER will make a few informal comments and/or read her own letter expressing her desires for womanhood and acceptance of responsibility for future spiritual growth.

Blessing Prayer

Women lay hands on DAUGHTER as mom prays a blessing prayer.

Thank you, in advance, for joining us for this important milestone in DAUGHTER’S life!

A WOMAN AND HER RELATIONSHIPS

(Assigned To: NAME)

Goal of Letter:

As a woman who has modeled what it means to be a good friend, NAME will charge DAUGHTER to make relationships a priority in life.

Possible Bible Passages:

- Proverbs 27:17 (Friends sharpen one another)
- John 15:13 (Friends sacrifice for one another)
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 (Good friends share common beliefs)

Suggestions:

- Tell about the time OFFER IDEAS FROM SHARED MEMORIES
- Tell stories of your own important friendships over the years.
- Describe your own close, lifelong friends – perhaps reflecting on times you've been there to support one another in difficult days and/or times you enjoyed laughing together, etc.
- Talk about what it means to sacrifice yourself for others and what it means to move beyond self to serve others.

The Charge:

End the letter with a “charge” to DAUGHTER to take responsibility for becoming a true friend to others by serving them, supporting them when they need it and modeling Jesus' example of “laying down one's life for a friend.”

Possible Gift/Symbol:

A packet of flower seeds – signifying the potential beauty that comes from nurturing friendships; a charm bracelet with charms symbolizing each friend present..

A WOMAN AND HER WORK

(Assigned To: NAME)

Goal of Letter:

As a woman who has demonstrated success in her career and/or managing a home well, NAME will charge DAUGHTER to take appropriate pride and honor in her work.

Possible Bible Passages:

- Proverbs 13:4 & 20:4 (Hard work brings reward)
- Proverbs 31:13-18 & 31:27-31 (A diligent woman)
- Colossians 3:23 (Work as unto God, not men)

Suggestions:

- Tell about your first job, your worst job, your best job.
- If you have become a full-time homemaker, describe the rewards and challenges of managing a home with excellence.
- Describe the satisfaction of a job well done.
- Talk about the ultimate purpose of work = worship by building something to God's glory (business, charity or a happy home.)

The Charge:

End the letter with a “charge” to DAUGHTER to take responsibility for becoming a successful woman in her work by dedicating all she does to God's glory,

Possible Gift/Symbol:

A blue ribbon – signifying the rewards of hard work;