

ADDITIONAL READING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Welcome to Adulthood by Johnathon Pokluda
- 10 Things Every Christian Should Know for College by Austin Gentry
- Surviving Religion 101: Letters to a Christian Student on Keeping the Faith in College by Michael J. Kruger
- Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper
- Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis
- The Reason for God by Tim Keller
- The Story of Reality by Greg Koukl



LAUNCH

RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 18+

Wow, the final preparation as you launch your child into the world to begin their own life in Christ. It is hard to believe you have arrived at this point. Changing diapers, potty training, and dropping them off at kindergarten feels like only yesterday. Yet, here you are, about to send them off to college, to the military, or to the workforce. You might be wondering, "How can I be intentional about successfully launching my child into a God-honoring life?"

Here are some steps you can take to prepare for their launch.

BE A GREAT GUIDE

As the parent of an older teen on the verge of adulthood, your role is to serve as their guide. Motivate, encourage, challenge, and advise, but you cannot force feed. Yes, you have taught them the basics and the foundational truths they need to know. But now, they must make those beliefs their own. They will likely have questions, so you should be a safe place for them to ask hard questions. Provide a listening ear as they potentially wrestle with and question the values, they learned growing up. Try to maintain a relationship built on trust and frequent, open dialogue.

OFFER BIBLICAL WISDOM CONCERNING BIG QUESTIONS

Your older teen is facing some big questions. Where do I go to college? What kind of career should I pursue? Where should I live? What is my purpose? These questions are both exciting and stressful! We have taught our children that if we trust in the Lord, He will direct our paths. How much more important is this proverb as you launch your teen into the world? The last words of King David to his son Solomon provide a model

for parents advising emerging adults: “And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind” (1 Chronicles 28:9). In light of making these important decisions, we must also elevate the importance of making those decisions through the lens of Scripture.

ENCOURAGE THEM TO SERVE THE BODY OF CHRIST

One factor that seems to create resilient disciples through young adulthood is whether a student consistently serves their local church or not. Encourage your child to find their place in serving the body of Christ. Could they serve in children’s ministry, on the tech team, the worship team, or even the welcome team? Help them to understand the benefit of serving the body of Christ through the local church by reminding them of Paul’s teaching in 1 Corinthians 12:12, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

MAKE THE MOST

While leaving home is a healthy and good process, it can be emotional for parents and children alike. Ease the pain by using the remaining time your son or daughter has at home to create lasting memories. Spend quality time together, connecting and talking about the exciting adventure of adulthood!

Launch is not simply about celebrating what has been accomplished; it is about intentionally sending students into what comes next. As part of this milestone, each senior should be helped to identify a personal plan for their faith beyond high school, whether they are entering the workforce, attending college, joining the military, or remaining in their hometown. The desire is that no student leaves this season without clarity about how they will stay rooted in Christ and connected to the local church.

For students who remain in the area, they should be intentionally invited into opportunities for continued discipleship, leadership development, and service within the life of the local church. This may include mentoring relationships, leadership pathways, or ministry opportunities that challenge them to grow and take ownership of their faith. For students who leave, help them think through how to find a healthy church, build Christian community, and continue spiritual rhythms in a new context.

In this way, Launch becomes a true commissioning, sending students out with prayer, blessing, and direction, so they step into adulthood not disconnected, but equipped, supported, and confident in their calling to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

ONE FINAL WORD

Completing the Faith Path is not a graduation from faith. It is a launching point! While milestones may be completed, discipleship never is. The prayer is not simply that students finish a process, but that they step into a lifelong journey of following Jesus with conviction, humility, and joy. A church’s partnership with your family does not end at graduation. The commitment remains to walk with you and your child as they grow, serve, and live on mission wherever God leads them. The Faith Path exists to help form resilient disciples who belong to Christ, believe His Word, and continue becoming more like Him for the rest of their lives.

FAITH PATH PLAN

Child’s Name: _____

How will you be intentional about your child’s spiritual growth in the coming year?

- ☐ Pray daily *with* and *for* my child.
- ☐ Spend consistent time in God’s Word.
- ☐ Schedule and have regular family times.
- ☐ Help your child find a place to serve within the church.
- ☐ Write a written blessing to launch your child from your home into the next phase of life. In your written blessing, you may remind them of fond memories, point back to moments you were proud of them, remind them of your role in their spiritual formation, challenge them to own their faith, encourage them in this season of transition, and commit to being a continual guide to them as they navigate the rest of their lives.
- ☐ Choose a particular book or resource to go through together and schedule times to talk through specific topics. Refer to any of the recommended resources listed below.
- ☐ Other: _____