

RITE OF PASSAGE

Event Summary for A Son

SON'S NAME Rite of Passage

DATE/TIME OF EVENT

The Purpose: To celebrate **SON'S** transition toward an emerging adult and to formally invite him to join the ranks of men by accepting responsibility for his own spiritual growth. Thank you, in advance, for joining us for this important milestone in **SON'S** life!

The Plan: Several Christian men who have influenced **SON'S** life will spend time discussing manhood and inviting him to move beyond childhood by accepting responsibility for becoming a man of God.

The Event: Each man is asked to write a short letter to **SON** on the assigned topic to read during the evening ceremony and present some small item/gift that is symbolic of their topic/charge. **SON** will be invited to read his own letter accepting the invitation to manhood and then **DAD'S NAME** will lead the men in a blessing prayer. The day/evening agenda is as follows:

TIME: GUY ACTIVITY: The men and son will go someplace in the afternoon together to enjoy some guy activity (i.e. shooting range, go cart racing, Frisbee golf, bowling, 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 manhood.

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

Invitations to Godly Manhood

- A Man and His Relationships (**NAME OF MAN ASSIGNED**)
- A Man and His Work (**NAME OF MAN ASSIGNED**)
- A Man and His Ministry (**NAME OF MAN ASSIGNED**)
- A Man and His Children (**NAME OF MAN ASSIGNED**)
- A Man and His Marriage (**NAME OF MAN ASSIGNED**)
- A Man and His God (**NAME OF MAN ASSIGNED**)

Acceptance

SON will make a few informal comments and/or read his own letter expressing his desires for manhood and acceptance of responsibility for future spiritual growth.

Blessing Prayer

Men lay hands on **SON** as **DAD** prays a blessing prayer.

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RITE OF PASSAGE

A Man and His Relationships

Assigned to **NAME**

GOAL OF LETTER

As a man who has modeled what it means to be a good friend, **NAME** will charge **SON** 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 how real men are willing to move beyond themselves to serve others.

THE CHARGE

End the letter with a “charge” to **SON** 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 metal file—signifying that iron sharpens iron



RITE OF PASSAGE

A Man and His Work

Assigned to **NAME**

GOAL OF LETTER

As a man who has demonstrated success in his career and the discipline of hard work, **NAME** will charge **SON** to take an appropriate pride and honor in his work.

POSSIBLE BIBLE PASSAGES

- Proverbs 13:4 & 20:4 (Hard work brings reward)
- 1 Timothy 5:8 (Manhood means providing for yourself and family)
- Colossians 3:23 (Work as unto God, not men)

SUGGESTIONS

- Tell about your first job, your worst job, and your best job.
- Describe the satisfaction of a job well done and of providing well for your wife/children.
- Describe times you've been able to give to the needy and how it feels for God to use you as a blessing to others thanks to your hard work earning money.
- Talk about the ultimate purpose of work = worship by building something to God's glory.

THE CHARGE

End the letter with a "charge" to **SON** to take responsibility for becoming a successful man in his work by dedicating all he does to God's glory and by taking his role as leader of a family who provides for his own.

POSSIBLE GIFT/SYMBOL

A dollar bill—signifying the rewards of hard work and the role of a man as provider



RITE OF PASSAGE

A Man and His Ministry

Assigned to **NAME**

GOAL OF LETTER

As a man who has been an important “minister” in **SON’S** life, **NAME** will charge **SON** to fulfill his 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 young men 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 lead a wife/family by taking them to church and serving, etc.
- Emphasize the overall “ministry of reconciliation” to which all men are called.
- Possibly touch upon how you’ve seen **SON** serve and possible places/situations in which he may be called to “minister” in the future such as college, the workplace, at church, at home, in the community, etc.

THE CHARGE

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

POSSIBLE GIFT/SYMBOL

A toy hand/ear/foot—signifying that **SON** is part of the larger body of Christ



RITE OF PASSAGE

A Man and His Children

Assigned to **NAME**

GOAL OF LETTER

As a man who has modeled what it means to make being a dad his highest priority, **NAME** will charge **SON** to look forward to and prepare himself for fatherhood.

POSSIBLE BIBLE PASSAGES

- Proverbs 20:7 (Integrity is caught by our children)
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 78:4 (Teach your children)
- Ephesians 6:4 (Fathers must be patient, humble, etc.)

SUGGESTIONS

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

THE CHARGE

End the letter with a “charge” to **SON** to take responsibility for developing habits of integrity, patience and selfless service NOW in anticipation of the honor of someday becoming a father.

POSSIBLE GIFT/SYMBOL

A hat—signifying that **SON** can look forward to someday becoming “head” of a home and/or wearing things that will embarrass his future children(!)



RITE OF PASSAGE

A Man and His Marriage

Assigned to **NAME**

GOAL OF LETTER

As a man who has modeled what it means to be a Godly husband, **NAME** will charge **SON** to start being faithful to his future wife now by keeping himself pure.

POSSIBLE BIBLE PASSAGES

- Genesis 2:18 (Not good to be alone)
- Proverbs 5 (Warnings of the temptress)
- Ephesians 5:25 (Cherish your wife)
- Philippians 4:8 (Keep mind pure)

SUGGESTIONS

- Tell a story of the excitement of falling in love with your wife.
- Describe how a pure and passionate husband/wife relationship is a wonderful gift from God—something **SON** 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 regarding pornography, temptations, etc.
- Talk about sexual purity as one of the ways a husband honors/cherishes his wife.
- Describe the “for better or for worse” realities of dealing with difficulties in marriage and how a real man remains true to his commitment/fidelity regardless of what comes.

THE CHARGE

End the letter with a “charge” to **SON** to guard his mind and body regarding purity in order to begin fidelity and faithfulness to his future bride NOW. Also, charge him to eagerly anticipate the wonderful gift of intimacy with his bride.

POSSIBLE GIFT/SYMBOL

An extension cord—signifying God’s design of men (male end) and women (female end) is a wonderful gift that, if used according to His design and in His time, connects us to one of God’s most empowering experiences in life



RITE OF PASSAGE

A Man and His God

Assigned to **NAME**

GOAL OF LETTER

As a man who has demonstrated what it means to love and serve God, **NAME** will charge **SON** to take responsibility for his 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 **SON** about your own faith journey including when and how you first became a follower of Jesus.
- Describe your hopes and prayer for **SON** as he continues to grow in faith and pursue the God you love.

THE CHARGE

End the letter with a “charge” to **SON** to take responsibility for developing his own relationship with God, building on but no longer relying upon his parents’ faith.

POSSIBLE GIFT/SYMBOL

A Bible or an appropriate Christian book such as **SUGGEST A SPECIFIC BOOK YOUR SON MIGHT LIKE**



RITE OF PASSAGE

Sample Blessing Prayer

The following is an example of a blessing prayer a parent might pray over his or her child during a rite of passage event to affirm the child and cast a vision for his/her future.

Dear Heavenly Father:

Thank you for the gift of **CHILD'S NAME** is to me, our family and to every person in this room. I give you praise for creating **HIM/HER** with such unique gifts.

MENTION SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

I am so proud of the young **MAN/WOMAN CHILD'S NAME** is becoming and I ask you to give **CHILD'S NAME** strength and grace as **HE/SHE** continues moving from the world of childhood into the joys and responsibilities of becoming a Godly **MAN/WOMAN**. In this moment, we celebrate the life **CHILD'S NAME** has lived so far and the exciting road **HE/SHE** will travel into a special future.

MENTION SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

Lord, you know how much I love **CHILD'S NAME**. You know that I will do anything within my power to help **HIM/HER** reach **HIS/HER** God-given potential. But, unlike the years behind us, **CHILD'S NAME** is moving into the season of life in which **HE/SHE** must own more of **HIS/HER** own faith and character formation. Please guide **CHILD'S NAME** on that journey and continue to nurture within **HIM/HER** a passion for you and the wisdom to make wise choices.

Finally, I ask you to pour out your blessings on my **SON/DAUGHTER'S** future. I can't wait to see how you will use **HIM/HER** in coming days.

In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.



RITE OF PASSAGE

Event Summary for A Daughter

DAUGHTER'S NAME Rite of Passage

DATE/TIME OF EVENT

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. Thank you, in advance, for joining us for this important milestone in **DAUGHTER'S** life!

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. **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:

TIME: GIRL ACTIVITY: The women and daughter will go someplace in the afternoon together to enjoy some fun activity (i.e. pedicure, shopping, shooting range, go cart racing, bowling, 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 womanhood.

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

Invitations to Godly Manhood

- 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 manhood and acceptance of responsibility for future spiritual growth.

Blessing Prayer

Women lay hands on **DAUGHTER** as **MOM** prays a blessing prayer.

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RITE OF PASSAGE

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 how real women are willing to move beyond themselves 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



RITE OF PASSAGE

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 an 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, and your best job.
- If you have been a full-time homemaker, describe the rewards and challenges of managing a home with excellence.
- Describe the satisfaction of a job well done.
- Describe times you've been able to give to the needy and how it feels for God to use you as a blessing to others thanks to your hard work earning money.
- Talk about the ultimate purpose of work = worship by building something to God's glory whether a business, a 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 dedication all she does to God's glory.

POSSIBLE GIFT/SYMBOL

A blue ribbon—signifying the rewards of hard work



RITE OF PASSAGE

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 lead your children by taking them to church and serving, etc.
- Emphasize the overall “ministry of reconciliation” to which all of us 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 I 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 toy hand/ear/foot—signifying that **DAUGHTER** is part of the larger body of Christ



RITE OF PASSAGE

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 Godly 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 pair of baby socks—signifying that **DAUGHTER** can look forward to bringing others lives into the world through the self-sacrificial beauty of motherhood



RITE OF PASSAGE

A Woman and Her Marriage

Assigned to **NAME**

GOAL OF LETTER

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

POSSIBLE BIBLE PASSAGES

- Genesis 2:18 (Not good to be alone)
- 1 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 and 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 regarding pornography, giving away your heart/body, temptations, etc.
- Talk about sexual purity as one of the ways a wife honors/cherishes her future husband.
- Describe the “for better or for worse” realities of dealing with difficulties in marriage and the call to remain true to her commitment/fidelity regardless of what comes.

THE CHARGE

End the letter with a “charge” to **DAUGHTER** to guard her mind and body regarding purity in order to begin fidelity and faithfulness to her future husband NOW. Also, charge her to eagerly anticipate the wonderful gift of intimacy with her husband.

POSSIBLE GIFT/SYMBOL

An extension cord—signifying God’s design of men (male end) and women (female end) is a wonderful gift that, if used according to His design and in His time, connects us to one of God’s most empowering experiences in life



RITE OF PASSAGE

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 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.**



RITE OF PASSAGE

Sample Blessing Prayer

The following is an example of a blessing prayer a parent might pray over his or her child during a rite of passage event to affirm the child and cast a vision for his/her future.

Dear Heavenly Father:

Thank you for the gift of **CHILD'S NAME** is to me, our family and to every person in this room. I give you praise for creating **HIM/HER** with such unique gifts.

MENTION SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

I am so proud of the young **MAN/WOMAN CHILD'S NAME** is becoming and I ask you to give **CHILD'S NAME** strength and grace as **HE/SHE** continues moving from the world of childhood into the joys and responsibilities of becoming a Godly **MAN/WOMAN**. In this moment, we celebrate the life **CHILD'S NAME** has lived so far and the exciting road **HE/SHE** will travel into a special future.

MENTION SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

Lord, you know how much I love **CHILD'S NAME**. You know that I will do anything within my power to help **HIM/HER** reach **HIS/HER** God-given potential. But, unlike the years behind us, **CHILD'S NAME** is moving into the season of life in which **HE/SHE** must own more of **HIS/HER** own faith and character formation. Please guide **CHILD'S NAME** on that journey and continue to nurture within **HIM/HER** a passion for you and the wisdom to make wise choices.

Finally, I ask you to pour out your blessings on my **SON/DAUGHTER'S** future. I can't wait to see how you will use **HIM/HER** in coming days.

In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

