



## A FATHER'S GUIDE TO AN EXTRAORDINARY RITE OF PASSAGE TRIP

### BEFORE THE TRIP

#### The Logistics

- Book lodging. Look for a place that can offer opportunities for moments of quiet reflection as well as adventure.
- In addition to your normal packing list, pack bibles, writing pads and pens, and games.

#### Set the Agenda

You are about to embark on a once in a lifetime trip with your son. While you don't need to plan every day down to the minute, you should spend time putting together an agenda that includes the following:

- Time for doing things with your son that he enjoys
- Time for adventure
- Time for 1-on-1 conversation and education
- Time for your son to have alone time with God

In creating the agenda, look to other men in your life that can provide insights, even looking to incorporate time with them into the trip if it makes sense for you and your son.

#### Preparation Exercises

- Write a letter to your son to read during the trip
- Have your son write a letter to you to read during trip
- Set your goals for the trip
- Have your son set his goals for the trip

## SAMPLE CONTENT, LESSONS, AND CONVERSATIONS

### Conversations

- Share your goals with one another for the trip.
  - In listening to your son's goals, consider your agenda. Are there opportunities for his goals to be met? What changes need to be made?
- Share letters
- Make time for a conversation where you can ask your son the following:
  - What's something you wish I knew about you?
  - What does being a man mean to you?
  - When do you feel most alive?
  - How can I show up for you better without trying to change you?
  - What's a moment in our relationship that meant a lot to you?
  - What questions can I answer for you?

### **Lesson: What is a Christian?**

A Christian is a forgiven and renewed follower of Christ, living in relationship with the holy spirit, dedicated to obeying God's word and growing to become more like him.

Who do you say Jesus is?: My Lord and my Savior

### **Lesson: Identity in Christ**

Theme: Who does God say I am?

#### **Key Scriptures**

Have your son read the following scriptures aloud.

- Genesis 1:27 — “So God created man in his own image...”
- Ephesians 2:10 — “For we are God's workmanship...”
- 1 Peter 2:9 — “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood...”

#### **Discussion Questions**

- What does it mean to be created in God's image?
- What do you think God loves about how He made you?
- What pressures do you feel about who you're supposed to be?
- What would it look like to live from your identity in Christ?
- What do you think it means to be a man of God?
- How do you think God sees you right now?
- What do you like most about who God made you to be?
- What parts of your faith do you still have questions about?
- What does it mean to have a personal relationship with Jesus?

#### **Key Scriptures**

Have your son read the following scriptures aloud.

- Micah 6:8 — “...act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly...”
- 1 Timothy 4:12 — “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young...”
- Proverbs 3:5-6 — “Trust in the Lord with all your heart...”

### Discussion Questions

- What kind of man do you want to become?
- What does it mean to be strong and humble at the same time?
- How do you make decisions that honor God?
- What does it mean to do what’s right even when no one’s watching?
- What would you do if a friend was making fun of someone else?
- Have you ever felt pressure to fit in? What did you do?
- What kind of legacy do you want to leave?
- What do you think courage looks like in real life?

### Solo Time with God

Have your son spend one hour on the following exercise. He’ll need his Bible and a journal.

- Write a letter to your future self at age 18.
- List 5 things you’re thankful for and 3 areas you want to grow in.
- Read Psalm 139 and write down what stands out to you.

### Key Scriptures

Have your son read the following scriptures aloud.

- Joshua 1:9 — “Be strong and courageous...”
- Matthew 22:37-39 — “Love the Lord your God... and love your neighbor...”
- 2 Timothy 2:2 — “Pass on what you’ve learned...”

### Discussion Questions

- What is a purpose or calling?
- What is Driven for Greatness?
- What is Legacy?
  - Well done good and faithful servant.
- Who are people you admire? Why?
- How can you serve and lead others in your own way?
- If someone described you in 10 years, what would you want them to say?
  - What habits or commitments can you start now to become that person?
- What dreams or goals do you have for your life?
- What do you think your God-given talents are?
- Who do you want to become—not just what do you want to do?

- How can you serve others at school, church, or home?
- What does success look like to you—and to God?
- What does being a good friend or brother look like?
- How do you think a man treats women with honor and respect?
- How should you respond when you hurt someone or are hurt by others?
- What can I (dad) do better to support you?

### Assigning Next Steps

Share books you'd like your son to read as well as commitments that he should implement in line with the discussions you had during the trip.

#### Books To Read

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#### Commitments to Implement

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