

ENTERING ADULTHOOD CEREMONY

Planning Guide

What is an entering adulthood ceremony?

The purpose is for teenage young men and women to have a rite of passage that marks the time when they leave behind childhood and enter adulthood. It is a time for wise men or women to speak into their lives, for parents to speak clearly about what they have seen God doing in their son/daughter up to this point, and to commission them to a life of responsible, Christ-following adulthood. The hope is that, when it's over, your son/daughter would be affirmed for who they are now and would know that, in a very real sense, they have entered a new phase of life.

How old should my son/daughter be?

There is no particular age this must take place. Families tend to choose between ages 17-18.

Who should we invite to come?

Grandparents, uncles/aunts, your son/daughter's BSM small group leader, other influential Christian adults of the same gender who have enough of a relationship with your son/daughter that their words will carry weight.

What does a typical ceremony look like?

Ceremonies can be held inside, outside, at your home, the church, or a location that has meaning for your family. People normally include these elements:

1. Instructions from you as emcee
2. Food
3. A message from dad or mom that sets the tone for the rest of the sharing
4. A time for each man or woman to share wisdom, Scripture, etc. focused on what they have learned in their years of adulthood and their walk with Christ.
5. A time of gifting—each person can bring a gift that represents entering adulthood (journals, books that have meaning, compass) and explain why they have brought it.
6. A time of prayer, where people place their hands on your son/daughter and pray a blessing and commissioning over him/her.

How do I introduce this to my son/daughter?

You know your student best. Let him/her know you are going to be doing this, to set this time aside on the calendar, and to simply come. You may or may not be asking them to do anything to prepare for this event, but if you are, let them know what it is.

Arrangements to Make:

- Invitations/Attendees
- Location
- Food
- Videographer/photographer
- What you want to say/give

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. —1 Corinthians 10:11