



Launch

Parent Resources

We want to help make the launch with your child a meaningful milestone! You may have ideas of your own that you have found helpful. But if you are stuck, unsure what to say or do, here are some guidelines and options to consider.

1. Plan Something

Be Intentional

You don't have to plan a big event, but marking a milestone with meaning doesn't just happen.

Pray About It

What does God want you to do? How do you want it to be?

Talk About It

With your spouse, friend, or others who have launched their children well.

Plan An Event

This could be a special meal, an evening time spent together, an overnight, or a weekend.

2. Gather People

Ask your son or daughter who in their life they look up to and feel loved or cared for? Whose voice(s) will they listen to better? Who has been a spiritual leader for them? Do they have any mentors or adults they respect?

Consider how many people you would like to have for the event. It could be just your immediate family, or extended family, some close friends, or a larger group.

Tell them where and what you want to accomplish-ask them to be a part of marking this milestone in your child's life through words, prayer, time together, and maybe a meal.

Give them opportunity to clear their schedules and plan for it.



3. Talk About it With Anticipation

Tell your son or daughter that something is going to happen

They should plan for an event, whether it is a breakfast, an evening, a weekend, with your family alone or others.

Give them opportunity to clear their calendar

As well as others who may be a part of the event.

Talk about the event with anticipation and excitement

Let your son or daughter know that this is special, this is for them, this is a milestone in life that you want them to remember forever.

4. Create an Environment

Find an environment that is unique or special

Or make the environment feel unique and special in some way. It could be a new place, someone's house, a retreat center, a cabin away, a day in the park, maybe a room at church or a banquet hall.

It can be your back yard

If it's decorated maybe with lights, a banner hanging, or some decorations that create an ambience, an environment that makes it feel different than the same old backyard.

5. Focus on God

Pray for the Event

Ahead of time and during it, and ask others to pray as well.

Pray for Your Child

A nice way to end the event may be in prayer, it could be a group prayer, or you praying for your child.

Read Scripture

That encourages and reminds your child that they are loved, and reminds them of the values and priorities that align us with our faith.



6. Speak Words

Give your child your blessing

It doesn't matter how, nearly as much that you do it. Your goal is to communicate approval, acceptance, and pride in who they have become.

Prepare words to say

Let your child know that it is their time to simply listen to what parents, family, and those who love them to say some things.

Put words in writing

So your child can have something to take with them.

Write something to your son or daughter

It doesn't have to be long or perfect, it doesn't matter how it is said, it matters that you say it.

Some ideas are:

“The Top 10 Things I Want My Child to Remember”

“The Top 10 Things I Love About My Son/Daughter”

“Reasons I am Proud of My Son/Daughter”

“5 Things My Child Should Know”

“5 Things God Has Taught Me”

“What to do When Life Gets Hard”

“How to Grow as a Disciple”

Ask others to speak wisdom, encouragement and blessing into your child as well, maybe ask others to make a list (see above).



7. Make It Personal

Don't choose an environment or ambience that isn't your child's preference

If he or she is an outdoors person, consider a park or cabin or camp of some sort. If your child is a sports nut, consider a time before attending a big game or watching it together. If your child is passionate about cooking, consider a table in a private room at a special restaurant. If he or she has always enjoyed the spotlight, then put him or her on stool and a stage, as if it is a game show or talk show

Relax-Have fun!

Meaningful moments don't have to be somber, play music, play games, dance, cheer, laugh, clap, celebrate the moment!

Hug Your Child

Few things communicate love, acceptance, and support more than a meaningful hug from a parent.

8. Make it Meaningful

Consider a gift that marks the moment for your child

Something that won't be used up in a month or experienced and then gone. Some options are:

- a ring or necklace
- a book
- a new Bible
- a bracelet inscribed on the inside
- a trophy
- a dish with inscription
- a mug that communicates meaning
- a watch
- a pen
- a briefcase, backpack, messenger bag
- a piece of luggage to encourage them to visit once in a while!



9. Make it Practical

Provide them with resources to learn, grow, and to turn to when they need it.

Give them a book that you found meaningful-create an inscription on the inside cover.

Provide them websites that may be helpful.

Give them a list of campus resources for ministry and support.

10. Be Repetitive

Remind your child regularly that you are proud of him or her and love them. Encourage your child to read the writings from the event again and again.

Spend time asking your child what they are doing, thinking, planning. Talk about the event periodically-asking your child what they remember or what stood out to them.

There are many ways to celebrate this milestone. It not the way you do it that matters as much as doing it. These are just some ideas. Use some of them or create something. Borrow some ideas, but make them God-honoring, personal and from your heart.



Resources:

Campus Ministries

Most colleges have a campus ministry department as well as outside ministry groups that have a presence on many college campuses. Below are a few organizations your child can get involved in.

[CRU](#)
[Fellowship of Christian Athletes](#)
[InterVarsity](#)
[The Navigators](#)
[Young Life College](#)

Articles for Parents

[Four Reasons You Should Invest in College-age Christians](#)
[The Changing Role of Parents during the College Years](#)
[Parenting Your College Freshman](#)
[The Long Good-bye: Five Lessons for Parents of College-bound Children](#)
[Tips for the Praying Parent](#)

Books for Parents

[Parenting Adult Children](#)
[Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No](#) by John Townsend