

PARENTING MATTERS:
SPIRITUAL MILESTONES

TRANSITIONS

LIFE LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE...

...time is moving quickly. Your sweet little kid is turning into an adult right before your eyes. Transitions take place in many areas of life from significant school years to important birthdays to first dates to getting a drivers license. There are so many moments to be intentional in celebrating the growth and change that your child is experiencing. As a repeating milestone, transitions encourage you to take time to celebrate each significant moment without getting lost in the sentimentality or the craziness of life.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRANSITIONS

WHAT ARE TRANSITIONS?

Transitions are opportunities throughout your child's life to be intentional in celebrating growth and change. Kids are constantly developing and there are so many opportunities to create a significant connection between their physical growth and their faith walk. It is up to you as a parent to define what transitions are celebrated and how to celebrate them. These can be things from graduation traditions to annual family camp outs to half-birthday parties. Honoring transitions is about making time in the midst of chaos to celebrate the significant moments together.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT IT?

The Bible tells powerful narratives about the lasting impact that family traditions can have. In the Old Testament, Jacob takes the time to identify what is special and significant about each of his twelve sons (Genesis 49: 1-28). In this moment, he blesses his children in a unique ways and, ultimately, sets the groundwork for what becomes the Twelve Tribes of Israel. This intentional moment, near the end of his life, empowered his sons to live out the life that God had created them for. In the New Testament, Paul writes to the church in Ephesus a prayer for communities and families which is centered around the profound impact of knowing God's power (Ephesians 3:14-21). Paul highlights that when family life is done well, future generations are set up to follow and glorify God. The Bible points out the big picture power that significant family moments can have.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT TO US?

God created humans to celebrate and rejoice. When you are intentional about making time to proclaim victories and create memories around them, you are living into who you were created to be. You know, as a parent, that time goes quickly. Making these transitions significant helps you and your child be able to look back over their life and point to specific times when they felt supported, celebrated, and encouraged. Create memories together so that you can grow closer as a family and memorialize all of the wonderful things God is doing.

ENGAGE YOUR FAITH BY...

PLANNING A FAMILY CELEBRATION

- As parents, decide what milestones you will commit to celebrating. Try to find a mix of consistent events (things you can plan ahead for) and spontaneous events (things that don't have a specific calendar date). Ask for your kids' input after you have a framework.
- Set some dates! Put them in your phone, set reminders, write it on the family calendar, whatever it takes to help you remember.
- Plan out at least one of these events as a family, use the following steps to get started:
 - > Decide what you are celebrating, pick a day that you will celebrate it.
 - > Talk about why you are celebrating.
 - > Brainstorm ways to make that day or that transition memorable and put together a list.
 - > Take a vote (or decide as parents if absolutely necessary) and narrow down your plan.
 - > Work on details! Who will be invited or included? Do you need to book or reserve anything? What needs to be purchased?
 - > Include your kids in the details, bring them with to the store, show them campgrounds online, whatever applies to your celebration. When you show them all that goes into the planning, it makes the event even more special.
 - > Count down. Make a paper chain, cross a day off the calendar, find a way to mark time. Talk consistently about the transition, why it is significant, and how excited you are to celebrate as a family.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7.

The Lord had said to Abram, 'go from your country, your people, father's household to the land and I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.' ...Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Sechem. At the time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'to your offspring I will give this land.' So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

PRAYER FOR PARENTS

Dear Lord, thank you for creating us to celebrate and rejoice with you. Thank you for orchestrating a big picture that consistently points us to you. Help me not to lose hope, but to rest in your word and your traditions. Thank you for keeping your promises and for creating legacies. Help me to set an example that my children will want to follow. Help me create a legacy that points to you. Bless us with wonderful memories and powerful celebrations together. Amen.

RESOURCES

Are My Kids on Track?: The 12 Emotional, Social and Spiritual Milestones Your Child Needs to Reach

By Sissy Goff, Melissa Trevathan and David Thomas

Fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/milestones-of-faith

Theparentcue.org/celebrate-the-last-day-of-school



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