



7th GRADE VIDEO SCRIPTS

7TH GRADE: THE BLESSING CEREMONY

Speaker:

For many families, the thirteenth birthday involves a celebration and a few joking remarks about becoming a teenager, and that's about it. What a wasted opportunity. Instead, this occasion can be used to educate and inspire the new teenager, the family, and friends to make the most of the years ahead. It's a wonderful opportunity to say to your teenager, "I'm no longer going to view you as a child; I'm no longer going to treat you like a child. It's now time to begin a new part of our relationship where we begin giving you permission and opportunity to operate like a young adult." This is an important thing to communicate, and it shouldn't be done with a quick conversation; it should be done through a significant rite of passage. This is going to be accomplished through a series of discussions and devotionals that will lead to a ceremony that proclaims to you that your child is now a young adult. I see many parents do this type of ceremony with their teenager. And those parents are all so thankful that they took

the time to make this special. Give your 7th grader the gift of the Blessing ceremony.

Turning 13 is a big deal. Different cultures celebrate it in different ways, but it is always important. In tribal cultures, they send 13-year-old boys into the jungle with no provisions to survive for three days, and when they come back, the whole tribe gathers around them and celebrates that this is no longer a child but a young man. The Jewish culture does something very similar with the bar-mitzvah and the bat-mitzvah. Now, they don't send anyone out into the jungle, but they do gather families and have a huge celebration centered around their faith. You see, 13 is important because it signifies the end of childhood and the beginning of young adulthood. How are you going to mark that for your teenager? How are you going to help your 13-year-old know that this is such a big deal in their life? Well, we have a rite of passage to help you do that called the "Blessing ceremony."



PARENT GUIDE FOR 7TH GRADE: THE BLESSING CEREMONY

Speaker:

This rite of passage centers on a Blessing ceremony or event that you will give to your student. This Blessing is designed to recognize and celebrate your student's exit from childhood and the beginning of their transition into adulthood. We have provided you with a downloadable resource to be used as a guide to giving your student this Blessing.

First: choose a date and location for the blessing ceremony. The best time to do this rite of passage is sometime around the student's 13th birthday. The location is very important. Make sure you choose a location that is special to your student. It could be your home; it could be your family's or friend's home. It could even be a restaurant.

Involve your student in the planning of this event. You can offer them these three options.

- One: They may wish to receive a written note of blessing from you. This would be for them alone to enjoy. Your teenager might be shy or extremely introverted, and this option may fit them perfectly.
- Two: Your teenager may choose a family dinner where you'll give a public blessing to them and offer the family members a chance to do the same.

- Three: They may choose for you to throw a party for their blessing ceremony. This might be terrifying for you to speak publicly, but remember--it is more terrifying for your teenager to miss out on a Blessing. So muster as much strength as you can to rise through the occasion, but never fear--we have included a Blessing worksheet to help prepare you. The guide to giving a Blessing has examples of the kinds of things to say to your student but also the kinds of things not to say. Making a joke about your student merely passing Biol-

ogy is not the tone you want to set.

Remember, a Blessing is not a time to instruct your teenager on what you wish they would do better. Save that conversation for later. But for now, build courage in your teenager through encouragement. It is also important to include Scripture and prayer in your student's Blessing.

This Blessing is designed to recognize and celebrate your student's exit from childhood and the beginning of their transition into adulthood

Isaiah 55:11 says,

"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth. It shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the faith of which I stand."

Scripture has a way of piercing our outer core and going straight to our hearts. Choose a scripture verse that has always meant a lot to you or that reminds you of your student and their walk with the Lord. One example is the



familiar Blessing that God told Moses to pray over Aaron and his sons that reads, “The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord may shine upon and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

It’s okay to write these things down and read them to your teenager. Your student will be more concerned with what you say than whether or not you had it memorized. Another great addition to your teenager’s Blessing is to include a symbol. This is another concrete way to get your point across. Whatever character trait you are seeking to communicate with your student can easily be represented by some sort of symbol. If you present that to your teenager during their Blessing, it will be something that they can hold onto for the rest of their lives. We’ve also provided devotionals for you and your student to read together. These devotionals address the specific life stage of your student from a biblical perspective and will continue to help you and your teenager grow closer together through prayer and Bible study. For more information, check out the other resources we’ve listed, including a downloadable guide to what is going on developmentally with your student at this stage in their life.

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