



HOME POINT

LAUNCHING YOUNG ADULTS



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After years of saying, "When I grow up, I'm gonna be..." there comes a point in which your children start going through the steps of actually making it happen. 18 to 26 is a time when young people transition from adolescence to adulthood. We've all heard the phrase "failure to launch" describing young men and women who don't make that transition for one reason or another. How can you be intentional about successfully launching your older children?

STEP ONE: Be a good coach

As the parent of a teen on the verge of adulthood, you are in the prime of the coaching years. You can motivate, challenge, encourage, and advise, but you can't force feed. You can help your son or daughter articulate what they believe, challenge their thinking, remind them of the "basics" they learned during their earlier years, but the time has come for them to truly own their beliefs. Through that process, you can provide a safe environment to wrestle with and even question the values they learned as children. The key to your influence at this point is in maintaining a strong relationship and frequent, open dialogue.

STEP TWO: Give perspective amid their big questions

Making the transition into adulthood, your son or daughter will face big questions like: What kind of work should I do? Where should I live? What should I do with my life? The most important thing you can do during this season is to direct them back to overarching Biblical principles and help them stay firmly planted on the foundation of our faith. *Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.*" (Matthew 7:24-25)

In the midst of the practical advice parents may offer on setting goals, choosing a job, finding a spouse and so forth, we must also elevate God's principles such as:

- Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. (Psalm 127:1)
- Lose your life to find it. (Luke 9:23-24)
- Number your days aright. (Psalm 90:12)
- Seek first the kingdom of God. (Matthew 6:33)

STEP THREE: Give a vision for marriage and family

Parents today often go to extremes to help their children get ready for college and the workforce, but don't know exactly what they can do when it comes to preparing them for the more important work of marriage and family. We sometimes overlook how much marriage and family serve as the organizing structure of life and the prime arena for our spiritual development. Actively modeling a Christian family is the foundation, and daily prayer for your child's future spouse and children is an important commitment. But our highly sexualized and anti-marriage culture also makes it essential that you provide guidance and oversight to help your children form strong families as a key emphasis of their launch into adulthood.

