“God’s Plan for a Man”
Father – Son Retreat

Read Me First - Retreat Planning Guide

This Event Planning Guide has three sections:
 I. Overview and Biblical Foundation
 II. Advance Planning
 III. Notes for the Retreat Facilitator

I. Retreat Overview

Congratulations! You are about to help plan or lead a retreat that has the potential to positively impact the relationship between a bunch of fifth/sixth grade boys and their dads! The main focus of this retreat is what it means to be a man of God and is built around three “Legacy Points”:

1. A man of God is courageous.
2. A man of God is honorable.
3. A man of God is faithful to the end.

After each “Legacy Point” component, each dad speaks the following blessing over his son: *I bless you to be a man of God; be courageous; be honorable; be faithful to the end…*

These three legacy points are presented by three distinctly different retreat activities. There are video clips** on the DVD and written instructions on the Retreat Leaders CD for the men who present these legacy points.

- **Courageous:** A Friday night campfire where someone describes, in story-tell style, the chain of events surrounding David’s slaying of the Philistine giant Goliath. Dad and son discuss “giants” in their lives.

- **Honorable:** A Saturday morning story-tell which quickly outlines the life of Joseph, son of Jacob, focusing especially on his decision to reject the sexual advances of his master’s wife. This is followed by a short video on human reproduction and a panel discussion on sexuality.

- **Faithful to the end:** A Saturday-afternoon trust walk where Dad leads his blindfolded son to a cross, symbolizing God’s faithfulness always. In this final blessing, dad gives his son a runner’s baton to represent the passing of faith from one generation to the next and to remind his son that he will always “be there” for him.

In addition, the following are provided to enhance the retreat and extend the impact beyond the retreat experience:

Faith Legacy Series: “God’s Plan for a Man” – Retreat Planning Guide - 1

Permission to photocopy Faith Legacy materials granted to purchaser only for local church use.
• **Retreat Games:** Boys often list the games as their favorite part of the retreat. They’re a great way to begin the retreat, and after the panel discussion on sex, a running game is a great way to blow off steam. Game instructions are included in the printed materials. There is also a video clip** of game instructions on the Retreat Leader’s DVD.

• **Blessing Event:** A follow-up blessing event which can take place as a part of a worship service sometime soon after the retreat. Included on the Retreat Leaders CD is a blessing event script which can be edited for your unique situation.

• **God Talk at Home:** Three follow-up family devotions, one for each legacy point (included on the Retreat Leaders CD), can help others in the family connect with what happened at the retreat while encouraging God-talk at home.

**Kids Kount Publishing grants to the purchaser the right to make library copies of this DVD so that retreat leaders can use them to prepare.**

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**Faith Legacy Series**

This retreat can be delivered to families with fifth/sixth-grade boys as a valuable stand-alone experience. However, it is designed to be part of the Faith Legacy Series, a video-based curriculum to help families grow spiritually in their homes from birth through high school.

- **Birth through age 8 — Every other year parents meet in small groups for three sessions.**
- **Preteen and Teen Years – Pre-teens and teens attend annual retreats or seminars with their parents.**

When each step is completed, parents speak a personalized blessing over their child while giving the child a blessing object that facilitates faith sharing at home. When this blessing event takes place in a worship service, it serves a triple purpose:

1. It imparts the power of parental prayer, spoken aloud, into the life of the child;
2. It communicates to the child that spiritual goals are part of their family’s DNA; and
3. It communicates to the whole church that the parents in your church are serious and intentional about nurturing their children’s faith walk, and that faith nurturing at home is the norm.

To learn more about Faith Legacy Series, go to [www.kidskountpublishing.com](http://www.kidskountpublishing.com).

This retreat is also an excellent outreach event, since most dads will appreciate the support of other dads in approaching THE TALK about sex with their sons. The follow-up blessing event has great potential to draw unchurched families to that weekend’s worship service.

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**Biblical Foundation for this Faith Legacy Step**

The Old Testament patriarchs often spoke a blessing to their sons – a blessing unique to that son’s personality and future. In this retreat, dads do the same. They start by speaking the retreat blessing that all the dads speak: *I bless you to be a man of God. Be courageous. Be honorable. Be faithful to the end.* Then they finish with a blessing that focuses on their son’s unique character strengths.

God’s Word encourages parents to nurture their children’s faith, so that succeeding generations will continue to have a relationship with the living God:
Deuteronomy 6:4-9
4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (NIV)

Psalm 78:4b, 6
4 …we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done… 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. (NIV)

This retreat strengthens the bond between father and son, building a bridge of communication and trust that promises to keep them connected through the challenging teen years ahead.

Studies have shown that when parents talk about God with their children intentionally and regularly, their children are more likely to invite their friends to church and to know Christ, be active in spiritual activities, have a heart for social justice issues, and remain active in the Christian community when they are young adults.

Prayer Support
As you begin to prepare for this event, take some time to reflect on the truths in the verses above. Begin praying for the things on the list below. If there’s a prayer-warrior mom with a 5th-6th grade son, you might ask her to form a team of Prayer Moms who will begin to pray for this event from the beginning and who would pray especially during the retreat itself. Some things to pray for:

• Safety, especially for the dads as they use muscles they haven’t used in years
• Dad-son bonding to last through the teen years
• An open door between the sons and their parents about sex and dating issues
• Courageous faithful living in the days following the retreat for both dads and sons
• That both dads and sons would resolve to honor God by respecting all women
• That the sons would resolve to wait for sex until marriage
• That fathers and sons would resolve to be “faithful to the end” as Christ has been faithful to them
• Pray the Scripture verses above for both dads and sons

II. Advance Planning

Timetable:

This would be a good time to watch the video clip “Message to Retreat Leaders.” It will help if you follow along on the handout titled “Message to Retreat Leaders.”
Six to twelve months in advance:
- Watch “Message to Retreat Leaders” video. (There is a corresponding print piece for this video on the Retreat Leaders CD.)
- Schedule the event in consultation with whoever is in charge of event-planning for fifth-sixth graders at your church or school. Be sure to consult local school calendars to avoid three-day weekends or breaks when families leave town.
- Reserve a camp or retreat facility.
  - A large outdoor area is essential for the running games.
  - A gym is helpful in case of rain.
  - Ask about campfire settings.
  - Reserve a meeting room, DVD player and TV or projector for Saturday morning.
  - Discuss meal options.

Three to six months in advance:
- With 5th-6th grade leaders and/or pastors -- Schedule a blessing event to take place during a worship service at church (recommended) or at a youth activity sometime soon after this event.
- Reserve a room for the dads’ orientation meeting to be held 2-3 weeks before the retreat.
- Recruit song leader(s) and/or guitarists for campfire worship.

Two months in advance:
- Create a publicity strategy and timeline. Your strategy can be very simple and streamlined, or multi-faceted to reach as many dads as possible. Options to consider:
  - Letter (See sample on content CD)
  - Email (See sample on content CD)
  - Brochure (See two samples on content CD)
  - Mail out special invitations (you design or purchase – not included with materials)
  - Social media (Facebook, youth leader’s blog, etc.)
  - Text messages to dads
  - Web site
  - Verbal announcement(s) in church – endorsed by the pastor, if possible
  - Bulletin announcement(s)
  - Notes/flyers that students take home
  - Posters
  - Create a fun video or skit and present it at youth activity a few weeks prior to event
  - Phone-calling team -- Each caller could choose the fifth/sixth grade families they will contact to maximize pre-existing relationships
  - Do you want to expand the outreach potential? Ask for free promotion time on local radio stations.

Six weeks in advance:
- Recruit panel participants for Saturday morning.
- Choose a registration deadline so the batons can be ordered in time.
- Review “Games” video clip and print piece. Check at church or school – what items do you already have for the games, what items will need to be purchased?
- Establish a budget. Determine how much the event will cost the sponsoring organization per dad-son pair. Decide how much to charge. Do you have to break even? Is there a
line item in your church/school budget that could help subsidize the event? See Finances/Budget section below.

- Preview Dad’s Orientation video. Decide if you will use the video or present the information yourself. If using the video, arrange for a video player at the orientation.

**Four weeks in advance:**
- Start publicizing the event to families with fifth grade boys.
- If you don’t plan to use the camp’s dining accommodations, start to create a simple meal plan, which can be finalized at the dads’ orientation meeting.
- Order glow-in-the-dark necklaces if you plan to use them for the Friday evening “Capture the Flag” game. (They come in containers of 50. Just type “glow necklaces” into your web browser and you’ll have numerous vendors to choose from. Red and green are fairly easily distinguished from each other at dusk and match the colors mentioned in the games instructions – “Great Father-Son Games” on the content CD…)
- Order a baton for every son for the final blessing. Batons with the 3 embossed legacy points can be purchased from Kids Kount Publishing: [www.kidskountpublishing.com](http://www.kidskountpublishing.com).
- Order “31 BIBLICAL VIRTUES to pray for your kids” bookmarks (one per dad) – also available from Kids Kount Publishing – 50 bookmarks per set.
- Review the “Supply List for the Retreat” and make sure everything is ordered or on hand.
- Confirm plans with retreat facility as necessary.

**Three weeks in advance:**
- Distribute print materials and DVD instructions to the panelists and those doing Bible-tells.
- Prepare for Dads’ Orientation Meeting.
  - Gather materials: pens, pencils, markers, name tags, handouts from CD, “31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Kids” bookmarks
  - Print a copy or two of “Great Father-Son Games”
  - Create a handout for the Dads’ Orientation Meeting. Have extra copies of this handout at the retreat (so participants can know what comes next and when…):
    - Retreat schedule
    - Name of medical facility, driving directions and phone number
    - Name of retreat facility, driving directions and phone number
    - Cell phone number for key retreat leader(s) – helpful both before and during retreat
    - List of what to bring

**Two weeks in advance:**
- Hold the Dads Orientation Meeting.
- Make packets of materials available for dads who missed the meeting.

**One week in advance:**
- Gather all materials and supplies (see “Supply List for the Retreat” on Retreat Leaders CD)
A Word About Leadership

Whether you offer this as a stand-alone event or part of the Faith Legacy Series in your setting, we recommend a key strategic principle of leadership: *Don’t do this alone.*

Invite dads to be a part of the leadership team! One great way to do this is to divide up the responsibilities at the Dads’ Orientation Meeting two weeks prior to the retreat. Use the “Assignment List” for this. In addition to those tasks, here are some roles/responsibilities you might want to assign before the Dads Orientation Meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Person(s) Responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st Bible-tell</strong> (David-Goliath) - For instructions see video clip “1st Bible Tell – Be Courageous” and print piece “1st Bible Tell…” from Retreat Leaders CD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2nd Bible-tell</strong> (Joseph) - For instructions see video clip “2nd Bible Tell – Be Honorable” and print piece “2nd Bible Tell…” from Retreat Leaders CD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Panel participants</strong> – Give each panel member a copy of the “Panel Discussion Instructions” on Retreat Leaders CD to help them prepare</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Panel Moderator</strong> – This person will “emcee” the panel discussion about puberty and sex. For instructions, see video clip “Panel Discussion” and print piece “Panel Discussion – Instructions” from Retreat Leaders CD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Bible-tell</strong> (Jesus, trust walk, “The Race”) - For instructions see video clip “3rd Bible tell – Be Faithful to the End” and print piece “3rd Bible Tell…” from Retreat Leaders CD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Meals coordinator</strong> -- If not eating in camp dining room…</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Publicity / invitations coordinator</strong> (see list of ideas above…)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Registrar</strong> – Track registrations and collect registration money. Inform Supplies Coordinator, Materials Coordinator, and camp how many are registered. (This may best be done by a church/school staff member.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materials Coordinator</strong> – Run off copies of all handouts, songsheets and “God Talk at Home” devotions. A nice touch is to have all paper resources and pencils in folders for dads as they arrive at the retreat, that they can take home with them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplies Coordinator</strong>. Some of the game supplies are used for more than one game. Having one person gather all supplies will prevent redundancy. Give him/her the “Supply List for the Retreat” from the Retreat Leader’s CD.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finances / Budget:

As you create a budget for this event, consider the following…

- lodging
- food
- game supplies
- invitations / mailings
- markers / name tags
- “31 Biblical Virtues” bookmarks (packets of 50 from Kids Kount Publishing)
- batons (one per son) To price batons with the 3 embossed legacy points: www.kidskountpublishing.com.

Some of these expenses can be covered by your church’s or organization’s operating budget.

Two financial principles to consider:
1. You don’t want finances to prevent families from participating.
2. People value the things they invest in.

With these principles in mind, consider the following…

- Charge a modest fee that most families can easily afford.
- Include the event in the church budget, while still charging families a registration fee.
- Clearly state in your publicity materials that there is financial support for families whose budgets are tight. No one should miss this event due to their family finances.
- Serve your own meals. This will cut down on costs and potentially involve more dads. Some dads will just donate the groceries they buy.
- Invite a donor or a group of donors to underwrite a portion of the experience.
III. Notes for the Retreat Facilitator

Sample Schedule:

FRIDAY
6:00-7:00 p.m. Arrive and check in your cabin.
7:00 p.m. Capture the Flag or Nuclear Meltdown
9:00 p.m. Camp Fire - God’s Plan for a Man: BE COURAGEOUS!
          Eph. 6:10; 1 Samuel 17 David & Goliath
10:30 p.m. Night hike, free play in the gym… Dads with your sons

SATURDAY
7:30 a.m. Breakfast/Cabin clean up.
9:00 a.m. God’s Plan for a Man: BE HONORABLE!
          Matt. 19:4-5; Genesis 39 Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife
          “How You Are Changing” video
          The facts about sex
          Conversation with a panel
11:00 a.m. Football Game
12:30 p.m. Lunch
2:00 p.m. God’s Plan for a Man: BE FAITHFUL TO THE END!
          2 Cor. 5:15; John 10:27-28
          Trust Walk and “The Race”
          The Baton of Blessing
3:00 p.m. Closing Prayer, head for home
Leading the Event:

Instructions for all the retreat components are included on the Retreat Leaders CD. You might find it helpful to print those out and put them in a 3-ring binder.

Each “Legacy Point” teaching time concludes with a blessing experience.

- Gather everyone in a circle, boys facing each other with their dads standing behind them.
- The instructions for each blessing experience are basically the same:
  - Dad, put your hands on your son’s shoulders.
  - Each dad is going to speak a blessing over his son now while the rest of us listen.
  - Each dad will say, “I bless you, Kyle, to be a man of God. Be courageous. Be honorable. Be faithful to the end.”
  - Dad, if you’d like to speak some other blessing or words of affirmation after speaking this blessing, you can do so. For example: “Kyle, I bless you to be a man of God. Be courageous. Be honorable. Be faithful to the end. You are a natural leader. I bless you to use your leadership gifts with God’s power to make a difference in his kingdom.”

May God bless YOU as you invest in the relationships and spiritual lives of these dads and sons!

**Ephesians 6:4**

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*
"God’s Plan for a Man"
Printed Materials

Note: There are several handouts in the Retreat Folder for Dads that are not included on the retreat leader’s CD. You will need to create or gather these handouts yourself.

1 - Promotional Materials
- “Email invitation”
- “Letter to Parents”
- “God’s Plan for a Man Brochure”

2 - Orientation Meeting Materials
- “Orientation Meeting with Dads - Discussion Guide” (this guide follows along with the orientation video if you choose to watch the video with the dads)
- “Anticipating Conversations With Your Son”
- “Follow-Up After the Retreat”
- “Assignment List”
- “Intro for Dads”
- “31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Kids”
- “Great Father-Son Games” – 1-2 copies (if you plan to recruit game leader at this meeting)
- Map of campsite (if necessary)

3 - Retreat Leader
- “Read Me First – Event Planning Guide”
- “Message to Retreat Leaders” – follow along as you watch the video
- “Great Father-Son Games” – follow along as you watch video clip on DVD
- Bible-Tell Helps
  - “1st Bible Tell - Be Courageous” – plus video clip on DVD
  - “2nd Bible Tell - Be Honorable” – plus video clip on DVD
  - “2nd Bible Tell - Panel Discussion - Instructions” - give to panel members, especially the moderator – plus video clip on DVD
  - “3rd Bible Tell - Be Faithful to the End” – plus video clip on DVD
- “Supply List for Retreat”
- “Blessing Event Script” - give to pastor and retreat leader for blessing event in worship service

4 - Retreat Folders for Dads
- “The Race” poem
- “Anticipating Conversations” (some dads may not have studied this yet)
- God Talk at Home devotions (3)
- Evaluation Sheets – (2) – one for dad, one for son
- Handouts you create/gather yourself:
  - Handout with retreat schedule, camp contact info, medical information, retreat leader cell phone #
  - Map of retreat facility (if necessary)
  - Songsheets for campfire worship
Part 1: The Big Picture

Get the big picture.
- Dads taking an active role in their son’s spiritual formation around a very key life event
- Deut 6:4-9 – spiritual living along life’s road
- Helping your son in his journey to manhood – spiritual perspective

Grasp how important this is:
- This retreat is part of a system of ministry which can…
  - Help change the culture of your church
    - It’s not the church’s job alone to nurture kids’ faith
    - Home and church need to partner together to nurture faith in children
  - Help the church influence the broader secular culture instead of the other way around
- Faith Legacy Series - Blessing event in church – Dads bless their sons with baton – This raises the value for dads to take an active role in the faith formation of their children.
  - Too few churches help parents do this.
  - Too few parents do this; when they do, their kids are different.

Make it spiritual--pray for God’s blessing.

Make it an outreach event. This event “scratches an itch” for unchurched dads. This event can be a great introduction to the church.

Rules/roles:
- Think safety –
  - Do your homework – Know contact information and location of nearest medical facility. Share this information with dads.
  - First aid kit.
- Phone numbers for who else might need to be contacted.
  - Camp contact person.
  - Cell phone number(s) of person(s) leading the retreat.
- Safety guidelines – dads be careful. You’re not as young as you used to be.

Leadership:
- There needs to be one recognized leader who everyone knows is in charge.
- But share leadership roles as much as possible. The more men who lead, the better the boys learn what it means to be a man.

Relax—it’s a guy’s retreat. Schedule is not the master.
Part 2: Retreat Details

Printed Materials (CD):

Leadership Helps
- “Read Me First – Event Planning Guide”
- “Message to Retreat Leaders” (to follow along while watching “Message to Retreat Leaders” video)
- “Great Father/Son Games” - give to game leader(s) - (also - video coaching clip on DVD)
- “1st Bible Tell - Be Courageous” - give to presenter (also - video coaching clip on DVD)
- “2nd Bible Tell - Be Honorable” - give to presenter (also - video coaching clip on DVD)
- “Panel Discussion - Instructions” - give to panel members (also - video coaching clip on DVD)
- “3rd Bible Tell - Be Faithful to the End” (TRUST WALK) - give to presenter (also - video coaching clip on DVD)
- “The Race” - give to Dads at the end of retreat
- “Blessing Event Script” - give to pastor and retreat leader for blessing event in worship service
- “Supply List for Retreat” – give to supplies coordinator

Orientation Meeting Handouts
- “Orientation Meeting with Dads - Discussion Guide” (accompanying video can be used for leader’s preparation, or you can just show the video at the orientation meeting)
- “Anticipating Conversations With Your Son (including TRUST WALK)
- “Follow-Up after the Retreat”
- “Assignment List”
- “Intro for Dads”
- Create an information sheet for the orientation including:
  - Retreat schedule
  - Name of medical facility, driving directions and phone number
  - Name of retreat facility, driving directions and phone number
  - Cell phone number for key retreat leader(s) – helpful both before and during retreat
  - List of what to bring

Promotional Materials
- “Email invitation”
- “Letter to Parents”
- “God’s Plan for a Man” brochure

Retreat Folders for Dads
- “The Race” poem
- “Anticipating Conversations” (some dads may not have studied this yet)
- God Talk at Home devotions (3)
• Evaluation Sheets – (2) – one for dad, one for son
• Handouts you create/gather yourself:
  o Handout with retreat schedule, camp contact info, medical information, retreat leader cell phone #
  o Map of retreat facility (if necessary)
  o Songsheets for campfire worship

**Advance Arrangements**

See “Read Me First – Event Planning Guide” for a suggested detailed timeline for making the following arrangements…

• Promotion Ideas –
  o Letter (See sample on content CD)
  o Email (See sample on content CD)
  o Mail out special invitations (See brochure on content CD)
  o Social media (Facebook, youth leader’s blog, etc.)
  o Text messages to dads
  o Web site
  o Verbal announcement(s) in church – endorsed by the pastor, if possible
  o Bulletin announcement(s)
  o Notes/flyers that students take home
  o Posters
  o Phone-calling team – Each caller could choose the fifth/sixth grade families they will contact to maximize pre-existing relationships

• Promotion far enough in advance to order batons, give the camp a head count…

• Camp Reservations –
  o Check out playing field, sleeping accommodations, campfire, group meeting room, and blessing sites before finalizing the rental.
  o Especially where the Trust Walk will end… You’ll find instructions for Trust Walk in two places:
    ▪ For Trust Walk leader - “3rd Bible Tell - Be Faithful to the End” (and corresponding video clip)
    ▪ For dads so they know what to do – “Anticipating Conversations With Your Son” (Orientation handout)

• Camp Accommodations
  o Medical facility
  o Food arrangements / Meal schedule
  o Towel, bedding
  o TV and video player
  o Table and chairs –

• Retreat Supplies

• Blessing Event Scheduled at Church

Faith Legacy Series: “God’s Plan for a Man” – Message to Retreat Leaders - 3
Recruiting Leaders

- In advance: (For a detailed table which lists advance leadership roles, see “Read Me First – Event Planning Guide”)
  - Speakers for Bible Tells
  - Panel Members (young man, counselor, pastor) – See “Panel Discussion - Instructions” for extensive information about the panel experience
  - Supplies Coordinator
  - Meals Coordinator (if needed)
  - Publicity

- Assignment List at orientation meeting

Blessings and Batons

- Special engraved baton available from Kids Kount Publishing:

- Three blessings at retreat:
  - Courageous (David & Goliath) at campfire
  - Honorable (Joseph & Potiphar’s wife) video and panel on sex/girls
  - Faithful to the end (Jesus & the cross) Trust Walk to a cross

- Blessing at church service after the retreat
  - Suggested “Blessing Event Script” included on Retreat Leaders CD
  - Dad and son grasp baton, lift it high, repeat once more the retreat blessing: “Be a man of God: Be courageous; be honorable; be faithful to the end.”
Overview
Play a game at the beginning of the retreat as fathers and sons arrive. This helps the retreat begin with fun and helps participants become better acquainted. Play another one after the panel discussion on Saturday morning. The boys and dads will need to work out some energy after a morning of talking. “Options for Games” are attached, but choose and adapt according to the size and needs of your group. Appoint a leader to organize and explain the games. We suggest “Capture the Flag” at the beginning on Friday, “Flag Football” on Saturday, and the indoor game “Nuclear Meltdown” if needed.

Objectives Summarized
1. Have fun and work out some physical energy.
2. Fathers and sons play together…this is not boys playing and dads watching. Everyone in the game participates.
3. Build relationships among the entire group. Help them become better acquainted while they play.

Include everyone
What if a father or son doesn’t want to play? Point out options that don’t require strenuous physical activity but still the person can contribute. For example, Capture the Flag uses guards who need not run a lot. Flag football needs referees. Some might enjoy greeting new arrivals and explaining the rules. Would others be willing to take pictures? How about having someone available with first aid supplies or ice for sore muscles? (There may be a dad-son pair or two that opt out of the games and choose to hike or whatever…)

Demonstrate good sportsmanship
Remind all the fathers to be good sports and not to be overly competitive. The objective is to have fun. Don’t get wrapped up in the competitive spirit so much that you argue with other adults.

Oversee safety
We recommend high-activity games that burn off energy, although the risks for injuries increase with more activity. The game played as participants arrive might be played outside at dusk. Limited visibility increases risk as well. The leaders of the retreat must take responsibility for making the event as safe as possible. Playing fields should be inspected for hazards and boundaries clearly marked or explained. The publishers of this curriculum assume no liability for injuries incurred during these games.
I. Capture the Flag

This game is a great retreat opener because people can easily join as they arrive.

**Brief summary:** Two teams compete against each other by invading the opposing team’s territory, grabbing the other team’s Flag and returning it to their side without getting tagged. If they are tagged while in enemy territory, they are sent to jail. Prisoners can be released if one of their teammates gets to the jail and tags them.

A Flag can be a strip of flagging tape tied to a football or flying disk or beanbag. It can be easily grabbed and run with or thrown to another team mate.

**Supplies Needed (Daytime):**

- Red flagging tape and Green flagging tape (if playing in daylight)
- Two identical objects to serve as Flags (balls, bean bags, flying disks…)
- 20-25 Cones or other objects to mark jail zones, flag zones and center line
- Soft flying disks (optional)

**Supplies Needed (Dusk):**

- Red glow necklaces and Green glow necklaces (if playing at dusk)
- Extra glow necklaces to mark center line (if playing at dusk)
- Extra glow necklaces and tape to attach to flying disks and Flags (dusk only)

Mark the field before explaining the game (field set-up instructions on next page):

```
   ○ Red-Land Jail      Red Flag ○
   ○ Green Flag ○ Green-Land Jail

   RED-LAND

   GREEN-LAND
```
Marking the field:
Use light-weight cones or other safe objects that can’t be tripped over to mark a long center line between the two areas. Designate one side as the Red-Land, home of the Red Team and the other as the Green-Land, home of the Green Team. On Red-Land’s side, place a Red Flag on the ground about 20 paces into their territory. On the opposite side, step 20 paces into Green-Land and mark an area for the Jail. Then move laterally away from the Green-Land Jail and place the Green Flag. This should be about 20 paces from the center line. On the other side of the center line opposite this Green Flag is the Red-Land Jail, about 20 paces into their territory. In summary, the Red-Land will have a Red Flag opposite the Green-Land Jail. The Red-Land Jail will be opposite the Green-Land’s Flag. It’s best if the Jail and Flag zones on each side are split pretty far apart.

Each Jail area can be marked with four or more cones large enough to contain the amount of prisoners that might be sent there. Each Flag can be placed in the center of a smaller circle of cones five paces across.

Explaining the game:
1. Form two teams before explaining.
   Use two rolls of construction flagging tape available from any hardware store. It comes in several colors (name the two sides of the field according to the colors of flagging tape) and is light plastic that can easily be torn off into 2 foot strips. Tear off strips and give one to each participant. They will tie them around their wrist to identify them with a team color. Fathers are on the same team with their sons.

2. Explain the center line, winning and getting tagged.
   Bring the players to the center line. Ask the green players to get on the Green-Land. The red players get on their Red-Land. Explain that the object of the game is for a Green-Land player to capture the Red Flag and carry it back over to the Green-Land without getting tagged. Likewise, the Red Team will try to capture the Green Flag and return it to the Red-Land. When a red player steps into Green-Land and is tagged, that person must go to the Green-Land’s Jail.

3. Explain the rules for the Jail.
   Bring the group over to the Jail to explain the rules for Jail. Each team needs a few Jailers who guard their Jail to prevent escapes. A prisoner in Jail must remain there until that person is touched by a teammate who is free. At that instant, the prisoner is free and may touch another prisoner and free him. If the prisoners are holding hands in the jail (a human chain) and one person in that chain is freed, then, like “electricity,” all those in that chain are freed. There are no free walks back. Jailers can come inside the Jail ONLY to recapture players who have just been freed. Otherwise, they are not allowed inside their own Jail. If a Jail guard asks an approaching player who appears to be on his way to Jail if that person has been captured, that person must tell the truth.
4. **Explain the rules for the Flag area.**

Bring the players to the Flag to explain the Flag rules. The Flag is placed in a small circle of cones. Just like the jail, this is the no-hover zone. Guards cannot stand in this area when they are guarding the Flag. However, they can enter the area when they are chasing an opponent who has entered the area. When an opponent grabs the Flag and tries to run back to his side, he may toss the Flag to another teammate along the way. If the Flag hits the ground at any time, it may not be picked up and run with again. It is no longer in play and must be returned to the Flag area by a guard. A teammate who catches it successfully can continue to try to get it over the center line.

II. **Capture the Flag with Energy Disks**

**Brief Summary:** This has the same rules as above but also uses flying disks as Energy Disks. (Note: It is very important not to use hard plastic flying disks that can hurt when they hit someone with force.) Use one Energy Disk for every 8 to 10 players.

1. **Explain how Energy Disks can be used.**

   - You can use an Energy Disk anywhere on the field. If you throw it at an opposing player and it hits him below the neck without him catching it, he must go to your Jail, even if he was standing in his own territory.
   - You can go into an opponent’s territory and send someone to Jail who is trying to tag you. Once you hit him with the Energy Disk, he is no longer able to tag you and send you to Jail.
   - If you hit a person in the head or neck with an Energy Disk, you go to Jail. He does not go to Jail.
   - If the other person catches the Energy Disk, the thrower is sent to Jail.
   - If one person holds an Energy Disk and another person throws an Energy Disk at him, he can use his Energy Disk to knock down the Energy Disk coming at him. In this instance no one goes to Jail.
   - If you toss an Energy Disk to one of your teammates in Jail and he catches it, that person is freed. But that person cannot step outside of Jail to catch it.
   - If you are tagged while you have an Energy Disk in enemy territory, you are captured and you must drop your Disk right there. You cannot pass your Disk back to your teammates.
   - If you tag someone with an Energy Disk while still holding it, it is like an extension of your reach. If you are standing in your own territory, the other person is sent to Jail. If you are in your opponent’s territory, you go to Jail. It is just like you were tagged. But if you let go of the Energy Disk before it touches an opponent while in his territory, that opponent is sent to Jail.
   - You are allowed to hide Energy Disks in your shirts until you are ready to use them.
2. Most important rule
   - When an Energy Disk falls to the ground in the opponent’s territory, you cannot pick it up. The only people who can pick up an Energy Disk off the ground in the Green-Land are green players. The only people who can pick up an Energy Disk in the Red-Land are red players. This is an important safety rule. If two opposing players are diving for an Energy Disk on the ground at the same time, they might bump heads and be injured.

III. Capture the Flag—Night Version

Brief Summary: The above rules apply, but this is played as dusk falls. Players are marked by wearing glow necklaces. These can be ordered online by searching “glow necklaces.” A color is needed for each team. You can use necklaces to mark the center line, the flags and Energy Disks. Use clear packing tape to fasten the glow necklaces to Energy Disks. Caution players to be more careful in their running. They should look around more often to notice other players. They should be more aware of the areas into which they are running. Also, it is helpful to have other light on the field so that it is not completely dark. This might include a bright moon or field lights. Having a smooth terrain with no obstacles is important. Each group needs to assume responsibility for its own choice as to whether their unique circumstances make this game acceptable for safety standards. Kids Kount Publishing assumes no responsibility for any injuries in any of the games.

IV. Night Time Marauder

Brief Summary: This game is best played in an area as large as the entire camp or a large wooded section. Divide into two teams. This is one game that can work well with dads on one team and sons on the other, since size or speed aren’t much of a factor. The teams have starting lines on opposite ends of the woods or camp. Each team’s objective is to get through the woods or camp and across the opposing team’s starting line. The winning team for each round is the one that has the most players across the opposing team’s starting line when the round is finished. Each player has a flashlight. If you flash your flashlight on an opposing marauder and correctly call out his name, that marauder must return to his starting line and start over.

Before you start...
   - Before you start, agree on two things:
     - A time limit for this round. When that time expires, the referee blows his whistle and both teams count how many of their nighttime marauders successfully made it across their opponents’ starting line.
     - Where players should go after the whistle blows ending the round.
A few rules:

- Explain the outer boundaries of the playing area.
- A whistle signals the beginning and end of each round.
- A player may never shine his flashlight for more than two seconds at a time. If a player does so, a referee is entitled to confiscate the flashlight until the next round begins.
- A player may not shine more than three times in a row at the same opposing player without shining it at another opposing player.
- When a player thinks he knows who the opposing player is that he has shined on (for only two seconds), he shouts out that person’s name. If he is correct, the identified marauder says, “Got me,” and returns to his starting line and begins again. If that person is incorrectly identified, he remains quiet. But since he has a flashlight, he might shine back (for only two seconds) and try to guess the name of the marauder who tried to identify him.
- Caution all players to not run in dark areas where they aren’t sure what is in front of them. This game is about sneaking past the other team, not sprinting past them. There is no official penalty for running in dark areas, other than the concussion you might get when you run into your 250 pound dad – or a tree!
- Will your team all go together, or will you split up into several groups, or will it be every man for himself? Will you employ defensive players who guard your starting line? Those and other strategic questions are for each team to decide.
- Give the teams a few minutes to discuss strategy and get to their starting lines, then blow the whistle starting the round.

V. Flag Football

Brief Summary: Standard football rules apply, with a few changes. Every player wears two flags. A flag is a two foot section of flagging tape, tucked into each side of the player’s waistband. Once the ball is in play, the defensive players may “tackle” the player with the ball by grabbing one of the two flags tucked into the ball carrier’s belt or waistband. The ball is placed at that spot to start the next down.

Mark the field before explaining the game.

- Each team has no more than 10 players. If there are more players, have two games playing at the same time, dividing your field into two separate fields.
- (Safety Tip: If your playing area is large enough, it’s safest for the fields to be laid out end to end.)
- Mark the field on both sidelines with cones every 15 paces. (First downs are achieved by getting to the next cone within 4 downs.)

Scoring: If there are no goal posts, a touchdown counts 7 points. If you have access to goal posts, a touchdown is worth six points, with the extra-point play counting either one point (if kicked) or 2 points (if the extra score comes from a running or passing play).
A few rules and directions:

- A father and his son play on the same team.
- A referee is needed to mark the ball and keep the game fair.
- After the ball is hiked, there is a full 3 second delay before the defense can rush. The referee can count these three seconds (OUT LOUD!) for both teams.
- Every down while on offense a son must touch the ball. For example, a son can receive the snap as quarterback and throw to a dad or another son. Or a dad can quarterback and throw to a son. Or a son can receive the snap, lateral to a dad who runs or throws a pass to another player.
- If either flag is missing when a player receives or carries the ball, the person is down.
- Players cannot hide their flags or make them difficult to reach. Shirts should be tucked in.
- Dads cannot tackle a son carrying the ball by picking him up and then taking off his flag.
- You may not use your hands to block the other team. You may block for your team’s ball carrier by running interference in front of him, your arms crossed in front of you.
- Remember – the object of the game is to have fun, not crush the opposition in order to try to prove your manhood!

VI. Nuclear Meltdown

Brief Summary: This game can be played outdoors or indoors. If it is raining, this is an ideal game to play in a gym. It is active, but not exhausting. Divide the gym with a center line marked by cones down the middle from one end of the basketball court to the other. (Each free throw lane is now cut in half.) Each team must stay on their half of the gym at all times. On each half are 7 cones or perches with small light balls (or some other objects) balanced on top. These balls/objects are called radioactive isotopes. If a flying disk hits one of these cones, it should be enough to knock off the radioactive isotope (ball). Once all the isotopes are knocked down on a team’s side, it is nuclear meltdown. The object of the game is to be the first team to knock all the opponent’s isotopes (light balls) off their reactors (cones) by throwing energy disks (flying disks).

Note: Use flying disks that aren’t a hard plastic that will hurt when it hits. It takes at least five flying disks per side, but would take ten or more per side with groups over 20 per side.

Mark the field before explaining:
Mark the center line. Place the 7 cones on each side with 3 a little farther back and 4 slightly closer. Balance a ball on each. Behind the cones, next to the far wall, mark four “hospital” areas on the floor. (If a player is struck by an energy disk thrown by a player...
from the opposing team, the “contaminated” player must retreat to one of the hospitals on the opposing side. Hula hoops make excellent hospitals.) Place an even number of energy disks on each side.

**Explain the game:**

- **This flying disk is an energy disk.** Use an energy disk to knock down a radioactive isotope. You will stay behind the line and sail it to the other side to knock off the isotope.
- **This ball is a radioactive isotope.** It sits on top of a nuclear reactor (cone). Once it is knocked down either by an energy disk or a person who bumps into it, it can’t be put back until the game is over. Give it to the referee...I mean, the mad scientist! This game requires at least one mad scientist who will make sure everyone is following the rules.
- If you catch an opponent’s energy disk in the air, the person who threw it is radioactively contaminated and must go to the hospital on the other side of the room.
- If you throw an energy disk at an opponent and it hits him below the neck, and he doesn’t catch it in the air, then that person is contaminated and must go to the hospital.
- If an energy disk is moving along the ground, rolling or sliding, and it touches an opponent, that person is contaminated and must go to the hospital. Don’t pick up an energy disk on the ground while it is still moving. You will be contaminated!
- There are four hospitals per side. Your hospital is on the back side of the nuclear reactors you are aiming at. If you get contaminated and have to go to the hospital, walk around the playing field and step into any one of the four hospitals on that side. At least one foot needs to be inside the hospital at all times.
- If your teammate can sail an energy disk over the opponents to you while you are in the hospital, and you catch it in the air while you have at least one foot inside, then everyone in your hospital is decontaminated and cured. They all get a free walk around the outside to enter the game again on their side.
- Once a team knocks down all the isotopes on the other side, it is nuclear meltdown and they have won the game. Then another game is started.
- It is important to defend the nuclear reactors and try to keep energy disks from knocking off the radioactive isotopes. Caution, there is a radioactive force field one yard away from every nuclear reactor, and a defender cannot stay in that circle. And remember, if a defender knocks their own isotopes off, he can’t put it back. It stays knocked off.
- Remember that a defender cannot pick up an energy disk sliding on the ground or rolling without getting contaminated. But if he wants to stop an energy disk rolling at his nuclear reactor, he can use another energy disk in his hand to knock it down or deflect it. He can also knock other energy disks out of the air with an energy disk he is holding.
Prepare by reading and studying the Bible

- Read I Samuel 17 several times.
- Notice details about characters and setting. Make it come alive to yourself so you can make it come alive to the fathers and sons.
- The main theme of this Bible event is that David was courageous because he trusted God. He saw a big God, not just a big giant! The battle belongs to God.

Prepare for the presentation

- A Bible Tell is a telling of the story without reading a script. It is helpful to have the “paragraph points” on paper in your Bible that will help you include the main points without getting off track.
- Certain key Bible verses should be read as the story progresses.
- Plan to interact with the audience as much as possible. Invite comments from others along the way.
- The following script is an example of a Bible Tell and a resource for your preparation. (There is a video clip on the retreat DVD that explains how to deliver this Bible Tell. Follow along below as you watch the video.)
- Practice out loud to an imaginary audience several times.

Script

- This is a suggested script. Feel free to change it to your own style as long as the main theme is emphasized.
- The main point of each paragraph is boldfaced above the paragraph and then a list of these main points is attached. If you keep this list of paragraph points in your Bible while you tell the event, it will help you stay on track.

- The Setting and Secret Weapon
  - Picture two hills: Philistines on one side, Israelites on the other.
  - Goliath…the Philistines’ Secret Weapon!
    - ten feet tall…
      - Ask a dad to put a son on his shoulders…is he taller than that?
- bronze helmet…
  - Would it bump into a basketball hoop?
- bronze coat of armor weighing 125 pounds…
  - How much do you weigh? What do you think he would do if you hit him with a baseball bat on this 125 pound armor? What would he say?
- bronze javelin on back
  - What would that be like today? Bazooka? Anti-aircraft missile?
- bronze shin guards
  - It won’t even work to kick him in the shins and run!
- shaft on his javelin thicker than my arm
- the tip weighed 15 pounds
  - If you just dropped it on your foot, you aren’t walking for month.

- The taunt.
  - Rules: “Let’s go one-on-one and winner takes all.”
  - Every day for forty days come down to the valley to insult Saul and his troops until someone fights him. I can hear the troops behind him chanting as he walks down into the valley to face the Israelite army: “Fthump…fthump…fthump…Goliath…” *(Have kids pick up the chant.)*
  - *(optional)* Then Goliath in the valley shouts up to the Israelites: “Saul…yo momma! Yo momma is ugly!”
    - Oh, no He’s going to start insulting Saul…so he’s going to start getting him where it hurts…he’s going to start telling yo momma jokes on him. What do you think he says? *(Kids offer suggestions.)*
    - *Letting kids tell yo mamma jokes is an option. Kids enjoy being part of the story and telling their jokes, but it could cross the line for what is appropriate. If you let them offer some of these jokes, afterward point out that as men we want to always respect a woman, especially someone’s mother. These jokes remind us of how someone disrespects another by insulting his mother.*
  - Goliath wanted to insult Saul. The worst insult was this: “Saul…you ain’t nothin’…your army ain’t nothin’…and your God ain’t nothin’.” Can you imagine that? Goliath is not just mocking Saul, he is insulting Saul’s God – the Lord of the universe!
• David arrives
  o So every day the armies line up...they yell at each other...then Goliath steps up to insult...then the Israelites run away...
  o Saul offers wealth to anyone who will go fight...even his daughter's hand in marriage. But courage had left them. In the chapter before, it describes that the spirit of God had left Saul. Perhaps the entire army was infected with fear because God's Spirit was not upon them.
  o Young David, probably not much older than you, was home watching the sheep. He was the youngest of eight sons. Dad had sent him to the front line with food for the oldest three brothers and the other soldiers. When he arrived, the guys were just lining up for their morning war cries.
  o David gets there and hears the insults from Goliath. The Israeliite army shrinks back in fear. It gets quiet. Will anyone stand up against this giant and fight?
  o Then picture this: Here is David stepping through the ranks of soldiers shaking in their boots and looks down in the valley at this massive Giant shouting insults. No one will answer, and David says this in verse 26: "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that would dare mock the armies of the living God?"

• What David saw...
  o What did everyone else see? Giant!
  o What did David see?
    ▪ A giant God...more real...more powerful, who could squash a puny giant with his little pinky.
  o Where was David getting his courage? In the abilities of Saul? The army? Himself? No, his courage was in knowing what God could do!
  o He already knew that God was the one who could deliver him. He already knew that God had delivered him from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear. (verses 34-37) He knew that God would deliver him because this giant had mocked the armies of the living God. When you learn to trust God in the challenges you face right now, you will have more courage to face bigger giants in the future.

• Others doubted...
  o When David said this and began to show some courage, do you think others believed in him? Let's see.
  o Verse 28, his oldest brother says, "I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

Faith Legacy Series: “God’s Plan for a Man” – Be Courageous - 3
What does Saul say? Verse 33: “...You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth.”
But who did David have on his side? The Lord God most high. Sometimes being courageous means you have to stand alone, but when you are standing with God you are far from alone. You are in the majority even if you are by yourself.

- Saul offered the wrong kind of weapons
  - In verse 38 we see that Saul dressed David in his own armor. But after David put it on with Saul’s sword, he tried walking around and he could not. What do you think people were saying about David’s chances when they saw him looking like this?
  - What did David say? “I’ll take it off. I’ll use what I know. I’ll use what fits me.” God gives each of us our unique talents and skills, and we can use those for him.

- Final threat and final promise
  - Now we see David picking up his weapons of choice: a shepherd’s staff, his sling and 5 smooth stones. By the way, how big do you think those stones were? About the size of your fingernail? Like a .22 bullet? Some stones shepherds used were that size. But sometimes they used bigger stones. Likely, this stone was bigger...about the size of my fist, weighing a full pound and traveling up to a hundred miles an hour. That’s more like a cannon than a .22!
  - So Goliath steps up to David and is surprised to see a young kid there. But Goliath is a warrior. And he hates his opponent. He speaks a threat to make David afraid. He says, “Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?...Come here...and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!” And he cursed him by his gods.
  - What does David do? He faces the giant with courage. He speaks to Goliath, no fear in his voice – what David says is more than a threat. He speaks a promise. (verses 45-47) He says...
  - “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of your whole army to the birds of the air and beasts of the field. Everyone will know that there is a God in Israel. They will all know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lords!”
The fight
- So David now runs toward the giant with his sling in hand and lets it fly! Pow! Right on the forehead. And Goliath says, “Umm, nothing like that ever entered my mind before!” Not really. 😊 Bam. Flat down on his face. David ran over to him. Took out his sword. Cut off his head. Holds it up.
- The Israelite army cheers and finds courage as well. The Philistines scream like babies and start running. The Israelites chase them down and defeat them.
- David was a man of God. He was courageous. Why? Because he trusted God and knew the battle belonged to God.

Group debrief
- What was it that everyone in Israel’s army saw that made them afraid?
- What was it that David saw, that no one else saw, that gave him courage?
- What are some of the “giants” in our lives that intimidate us or make us a little weak-kneed or afraid? Take some suggestions…
- How is it that God can give us victory in that?

Talk about it now…giants and courage
- Dads and sons, take about ten minutes -- find a spot where you can go and discuss this question. “What is a giant you face now, or that you faced in the past?” Think about how God helped you then or how he might help you now. If there’s any advice you could give yourself now about back then, what would it be?
- Sons, talk about one of the giants you face in your world and what you plan on doing to have the giant-Slayer, God himself, give you the courage to find victory against that giant?
- Dads, go first. Then sons. Discuss…

Come back for the blessing…
- Gather everyone in a circle, boys facing each other with their dads standing behind them.
- The instructions for each of the three blessing experiences throughout the retreat are basically the same:
  - Dad, put your hands on your son’s shoulders.
  - Each dad is going to speak a blessing over his son now while the rest of us listen.
  - I’ll use “Kyle” as the son’s name as an example.
  - Each dad will say, “I bless you, Kyle, to be a man of God. Be courageous. Be honorable. Be faithful to the end.”
• Dad, if you’d like to speak some other blessing or words of affirmation after speaking this blessing, you can do so. For example: “Kyle, I bless you to be a man of God. Be courageous. Be honorable. Be faithful to the end. You are a natural leader. I bless you to use your leadership gifts with God’s power to make a difference in his kingdom.”

• Closing Prayer...
  o After all dads have blessed their sons, close with a prayer asking God to help everyone around the circle be brave and to face the giants in our lives with great courage: Lord help us to be men after David’s heart – courageous, honorable, and faithful to the end.
Prepare by reading and studying the Bible
- Read Genesis 37:1-36 and 39:1-41:43 several times.
- Notice details about characters and setting. Make it come alive to yourself so you can make it come alive to the fathers and sons.
- The main theme of this Bible event is that Joseph honored God above all else. In spite of the fact that life dealt him bad cards more than once, he refused to give up his honor or give in to temptation.
- There are more details in these chapters than you will want to share. Remember the main theme of “honor” as you move through the events.

Prepare for the presentation
- A Bible Tell is a telling of the story without reading a script. It is helpful to have the “paragraph points” on paper in your Bible that will help you include the main points without getting off track.
- Certain key Bible verses should be read as the story progresses.
- Plan to interact with the audience as much as possible. Don’t speak too long without getting the audience involved.
- The following script is an example of a Bible Tell and a resource for your preparation. (There is a video clip on the retreat DVD that explains how to deliver this Bible Tell. Follow along below as you watch the video.)
- Practice out loud to an imaginary audience several times.

Script
- This is a suggested script. Feel free to change it to your own style as long as the main theme is emphasized.
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Three Options
There are three options for you to consider for this Bible-tell:
- Start right at the point of Joseph’s involvement in Potiphar’s household. Leave out the details of his childhood dreams and sibling rivalry. (Use this option if your time is short.)
- Follow the script outline below, including the details about his childhood dreams, sibling rivalry, etc.
- If you have a group that knows this Bible event well, you might let the sons and dads fill in the background information leading up to Joseph’s service in Potiphar’s household. This option will probably take the most time but is
excellent in getting your audience involved. Below are some questions you might ask if you choose this option, letting the dads and sons “tell the story” in response to these questions.

Questions for Bible Tell Option Three:

- Let’s review the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. Joseph had a lot of brothers. How many sons did his father Jacob have? If a hint is needed: it’s the same number of disciples Jesus had in his inner circle. (12)

- When Joseph was a boy, he had some dreams. What did he dream? (The theme of “honor” is introduced into Joseph’s life through these dreams.) He dreamt that his brothers and parents would all bow down to him.


- What did his brothers do as a result of their jealousy? First, they were going to kill him. Then they thought better of that and sold him into slavery.

- Where was Joseph taken? Egypt.

- He became a slave to Potiphar, captain of the guard for the Pharaoh himself. How did things go for him in that position? Things went well. Potiphar put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned.

- So Joseph was in a position of honor, wasn’t he? Even though he was a slave. But then something bad happened. What was it? Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce Joseph, get him to sleep with her. After Joseph refused numerous times, she accused him of rape and he was thrown in prison.

- How was Joseph honored, even in prison? He was put in charge of everything in the prison; in effect he was like the head “trustee”.

- And now in prison, dreams become a part of Joseph’s life again. First, Joseph interprets the dream of a fellow-prisoner who had been the Pharaoh’s trusted cup-bearer. Three days later Joseph’s interpretation of the cup-bearer’s dream comes true and the cup-bearer is released from prison and gets his old job back serving the Pharaoh.

- Two years pass and the cup-bearer forgets about Joseph. Then Pharaoh has two dreams. Who is asked to come and interpret the Pharaoh’s dreams? Joseph.
• Joseph says the dreams mean there will be what in the land of Egypt? Seven years of plenty followed by seven years of drought and famine.

• What does Pharaoh do in response to Joseph’s interpretation? He makes Joseph the second most-powerful person in all of Egypt.

• So who comes to Egypt a few years later looking for food? (Hint- there are eleven of them.) — Joseph’s brothers.

• And who do they bow down to when they get to Egypt? Joseph.

• So what’s the moral of the story? There are numerous “correct” responses to this question: Resist temptation, don’t give up, trust God, remain faithful even when things look bleak...

• If we are men of honor, God will be with us. Maybe not the way we think, but he promises to always be there — and if we are men of honor, we WILL BE rewarded – if not in this life, then in heaven. That we can count on!

Script for Bible Tell Option Two:
- Start by reviewing last night’s Bible Tell —
  - Be a man of God: Be courageous.
    - David faced Goliath with great courage.

- The Setting – Sibling Rivalry
  - A man of God is honorable – That will be the point of this message. But first, I want to talk about Sibling Rivalry – who knows what that is? Let kids respond.
  - This Bible Tell is about Joseph – not the one who was Jesus’ father, but the one who lived a couple thousand years earlier. He was one of twelve sons and his dad’s name was Jacob. Some of you experience sibling rivalry in your family. But dads – try having four wives and 12 sons among them. Talk about a “blended family!” Do you think maybe there might be some sibling rivalry rearing its ugly head in that family? Yeah, maybe – just a little.
    - It all started with Jacob, the dad. Jacob had 12 sons and four wives. Son #11 – Joseph - was Jacob’s favorite son – the oldest son of his favorite wife. That’s right – you heard me – he had a favorite son AND a favorite wife! Can you see trouble brewing?

- Joseph’s Actions Stir Up Trouble
  - Now Joseph, the favorite son, was not very wise either, at least as a young man.
    - Exhibit One – Joseph wasn’t too smart at first. At age 17, he tattled on his older brothers. At age 17! That means they were in their twenties and thirties! How do you suppose they responded – “Oh thank you, Joseph, favorite son of our father, for turning us in and revealing our sin! We’ve learned a valuable lesson, and we would
have never learned it if it wasn’t for you! Thank you ever so much!”
  Yeah, right!
  o Exhibit Two – Joseph wasn’t too smart at first. He had several
dreams which had his brothers and parents bowing down to him.
  Guess what he did – he told his family about the dreams! Why
would he do that? Two reasons: 1) – He was stupid. or 2) Sibling
rivalry – There’s a pecking order in the family here, and I want to
be at the top.

• Joseph’s Brothers Hated Him
  o So how did Joseph’s brothers feel about him? The Bible says they
hated him – so much, in fact, that they plotted to kill him!
  o Then they got a better idea – let’s sell him as a slave! That'll get rid
of him while putting some money in our pockets! So they sold him
to some Midianite merchants as they passed by on their way to
Egypt– and Joseph was gone –forever! Or so they thought...

• How Might Joseph Respond?
  o So, how would you feel if you were Joseph? What might you be
thinking?
    ▪ Why me?
    ▪ I didn’t choose to be born the favorite son of a favorite wife,
to a dad who was clueless about what it means to be a
family!
    ▪ I didn’t choose to have dreams that would make my brothers
hate me!
    ▪ Clearly those dreams I had were about as far from reality as
they could be – I’m gonna spend the rest of my life as a
slave – bowing down to others. Clearly no one will ever bow
down to me or honor me, ever again!
    ▪ The whole notion that there is a God who looks out for us if
we’re faithful to him – WRONG. There is no God.
  o That’s what Joseph might have thought. But he didn’t. Somewhere
along the line, Joseph had learned from his clueless father a
valuable lesson: A man of God is honorable.

• Joseph Chooses Honor as a Slave
  o Joseph said to himself, “If I’m going to be a slave the rest of my life,
then I’m going to be the best slave that ever walked the face of the
earth. I will be honorable.”
    ▪ He was sold to Potiphar, the captain of the guard for the king
of Egypt, who was called Pharaoh.
    ▪ It didn’t take long before Joseph was rising through the ranks
of Potiphar’s slaves until he was in charge of everything
Potiphar owned – his home, all his belongings, his land –
everything. He was clearly the most trusted man in
Potiphar’s personal world.

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- Let’s stop for a second and make the connection – Joseph is now closely connected to the most trusted man in all of Pharoah’s world – the captain of the guard assigned to protect him! Joseph is just one very trusted relationship away from the king of Egypt! Not bad for a man whose brothers hated him so much they sold him into slavery!

- **The Plot Thickens**
  - It just so happened that Potiphar was married. And Potiphar’s wife took one look at Joseph and liked what she saw. Here’s what it says in Genesis 39:6b-7…
    - Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" (NIV)
  - Can you say “Hubba hubba?!” Lemme hear you say, “Whoa baby!”
  - What do you boys think Joseph did? Thumbs up – Joseph went to bed with her, thumbs down - Joseph said no thanks. Have kids vote.

- **Joseph Resists**
  - Let’s listen to Joseph’s exact words in Gen 39:8-9 “But (Joseph) refused. ‘With me in charge,’ he told her, 'my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?'” (NIV)
  - Joseph was a man of God, a man of honor. He knew that to sin against his master like this was not just a sin against his master, but a sin against God! Here’s my theory about that. The Bible doesn’t say it, but I believe Joseph had decided long before he was ever tempted like this that he was going to remain sexually pure until he got married. He may have even decided that when he was about your age, guys – maybe ten or eleven.
  - So when Potiphar’s wife came after him, he had his answer ready. No need to think about it, even for a second. “I will not do such a wicked thing and sin against God…”

- **The Plot Thickens Some More**
  - So do you think Potiphar’s wife gave up? Not for a second. Young Joseph was a stud! The Bible says she tempted Joseph day after day. But because Joseph had decided long ago that he was going to be a man of God, a man of honor, he never gave in.
  - That’s why what happens next is such a shock. We tend to think if we do the right thing, God will reward us and take care of us, right? But who knows what happened to Joseph next? (Put in jail)
That’s right – Potiphar’s wife accuses him of trying to rape her, and Joseph is thrown in the slammer!

**Joseph in Jail**

- So let’s review…
- Joseph’s dad favors him over his brothers and they hate him for it. They sell him into slavery.
- He gets accused of something he didn’t do and gets thrown into jail.
- A lesser man might have said, “That’s it. I’ve had it with this honor thing. It’s gotten me nowhere. There is no God. There is no honor. From now on I’m just in it for what I can get.”
- But not Joseph. Joseph says, “If I’m going to be in prison, then I’m going to be the most honorable prisoner I can be.” What was the result? Let’s read it from God’s Word:
- Gen 39:22-23 “So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.” (NIV)

**The Moral of the Story…**

- How does the story end? While in prison, Joseph interprets a couple guys’ dreams for them. Pharaoh has a couple of dreams nobody can interpret. Word gets to Pharaoh that there’s this Hebrew prisoner that can interpret dreams. Joseph interprets the Pharaoh’s dreams correctly – there’s going to be a famine. And Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge of the entire kingdom. And because Joseph is in charge, Egypt is the only nation with food a few years later.
- So guess who comes to Egypt looking for food? (Hint- there are eleven of them.) – Joseph’s brothers. Guess who they bow down to when they get to Egypt? (Joseph)
- So what’s the moral of the story? If we are men of honor, God will be with us. Maybe not the way we think. But he promises to always be there – and if we are men of honor, we WILL BE rewarded – if not in this life, then in heaven. That we can count on!

**Closing Prayer…**

- Thank you, Father, for this lesson on honor in the Bible. Help us to be men of honor – especially when it comes to matters involving sex. Help us to be courageous, honorable, and faithful to the end. In Jesus’ name. Amen.
- We’re going to consider a little more what it means to be honorable men later. But first let’s go have some breakfast…

**Breakfast prayer…**
THE BIG THREE:

What each boy should come away with when this discussion is finished:

1. Sex is a wonderful gift from God, designed to draw a husband and wife close together while bringing children into the world.

2. A man of God honors women in every way, especially when it comes to sex. It’s not about what you want. It’s about what’s best for her.

3. There’s no need to be embarrassed about sex. It’s something you can talk about with your dad comfortably and openly.

A COACHING POINT

There is more information about sex in this packet of materials than you can possibly cover in this panel presentation. It is provided here to help you know what questions to expect and to give you background information in case you want to go a little deeper on a given subject.

Every question listed in this resource has been asked by a dad or son at a 5th-6th grade father-son retreat over the years. It may not all be appropriate for boys at this age. The material that may be most appropriate for 10-11 year olds is in standard font.

Material in italicized font may be beyond the scope of this age group. Use discretion as to how much you say. Beware of the temptation to “scare them straight” with too much information about STDs, abortion, etc. (For a deeper exploration of these issues, see the Faith Legacy Series “step” for ninth grade teens and their parents, “A Teenage Home Where ‘Sex’ Isn’t a Dirty Word”…)

If panel members will keep “The Big Three” objectives (above) in mind as you answer the questions, you’ll be on pretty solid footing.
As You Prepare…

- **Pray.** What are the subjects the boys need to deal with? A good rule of thumb may be – if there’s a good chance they’re going to hear about this at school (from peers or teachers) in the next year or two, or if it’s made the news recently, you probably should discuss it here. Hiding our heads in the sand does not protect our sons from the realities of society. In fact, it likely will make our sons more vulnerable.

- **Leadership/Organization.**
  - One panelist should serve as **moderator.** This person should be relaxed in front of people and a good communicator. His job is to answer a few questions and make sure other panel members get ample opportunities to respond as well.
  - Another panelist could **arrange questions** into categories as they arrive at the head table. (This can be done by the moderator also)

- **Pray.** Start the panel discussion with prayer, then relax and trust God. He will bring immense wisdom as the gathered body of Christ speaks.

- **Open the door.** Remember that the most important thing you’re doing is opening a door between dads and sons for future conversations. You don’t have to cover every subject in totality.

- **Keep it brief.** Whether you’re answering a question or reading from Scripture, remember what it was like for you at age 10. A 10-year-old boy can only absorb so much content at any one time and then his mind goes elsewhere. There’s an education adage that applies here: *The more you ‘teach,’ the less they remember.*

- **Mix things up.** Involve as many senses as you can. Get people moving. Be animated as you talk. Use object lessons (both visual and verbal metaphors). All these teaching strategies help your audience stay with you and remember better.

- **Prime the pump.** Start out with a few questions that you’ve written out in advance. (Sample questions and possible answers are listed for you on the pages that follow.) As you get rolling, dads will start passing questions to the panel. Once the boys sense this is a safe process, they’ll start to write questions too.

- **Include the dads.** You don’t have to have all the answers. Ask the dads if one of them would like to answer a question. (There’s a chance the dad that asked the question has an answer he wants his son to hear.)

- **Laugh.** Use humor to help relax the atmosphere.
The Panel:
Three or four panel members are sufficient. Consider including…
- Christian counselor, school guidance counselor, man who has volunteered with teen boys for some time, or a dad who has “been there” with his teen son(s)
- Young man (late teens/early twenties) who has committed to wait for sex until marriage (or who waited for sex until he was married)
- You may also consider involving someone who did not wait for sex until married and wishes he had waited.
- Medical doctor
- Pastor or someone with a wealth of Scripture knowledge and godly wisdom

Set-Up:
Resources needed:
- Name tags for everyone and markers (unless everybody knows everybody else)
- Scraps of paper for participants to write questions that the panelists will answer – lots of extras so kids and dads can write multiple questions. Spread pencil and paper around at all the tables (including the head table, in case one of the panelists decides to write a question or two)
- Pen or pencil for each participant, including panelists
- Panelists should have their Bibles and this set of instructions
- Bibles brought by participants; maybe a few extras for those who didn’t bring one
- Video player and projection system or TV
- Video “How You Are Changing” - Boy’s edition, © 2009 Concordia Publishing House (approximately 8-1/2 minutes)
- (Optional) Clear tape dispenser for every 6-8 participants

Table Arrangement:
Place a rectangular table in front. The panelists sit on one side of the table facing the group. The main purpose of the panelists’ table is to lay out the questions from dads and sons in order to cluster questions together into categories.

Have each boy sit with his dad. Configure the tables in as tight a layout as possible, so everyone can see each other and the setting feels as intimate as you can make it. Some groups have the dads sit right behind their sons – this helps keep the distance between tables much smaller.
Introduction:
You will want to think through how you want to introduce this topic. Consider the following…

Earlier today we heard about Joseph and how he resisted Potiphar’s wife’s attempts to seduce him sexually. Before he was ever tempted by Potiphar’s wife, Joseph had decided he would be a man of honor in the area of sexuality.

Joseph refused to dishonor Potiphar or Potiphar’s wife, but especially he chose not to dishonor God. When Joseph said “No” to Potiphar’s wife, he was saying “Yes” to God. The purpose of this portion of the retreat is to consider how we can say “Yes” to God in the area of sex – how we can be men of honor when it comes to sex.

In Exodus chapter 20, God says some very important words about sex that are meant to protect us: You shall not commit adultery. Adultery is having sex with someone outside of marriage. The Bible is clear:

Adultery – sex outside of marriage - is sinful. But sex isn’t.

Sex is God’s idea. In fact, it’s one of his better ideas! When God created Adam and Eve, he said, “Be fruitful and multiply.” He meant that Adam should plant a seed inside Eve that would grow to become a child. Children are the fruit that comes about when a man loves his wife and plants his seed in her.

We’re going to watch a video that explains the basic facts of how babies are made, and it will also talk about the sex act.

We’re going to talk about it here, because if you’re going to be a man of God, you’re going to be honorable in the area of sex, just as Joseph was. Too often in our culture sex is experienced and portrayed on TV or in the movies or on the Internet or in magazines in ways that are far from God's perfect plan for sex.

What is God’s perfect plan for sex? We’re going to talk about that today. But first let’s watch this video…

Show the video, “How You Are Changing.” Show the portion titled, “Boys’ Edition.” After showing the video, begin with prayer:
Thank you, God, for the gifts of sex and romance. Please bless this discussion to help us all, dads and sons together, be more comfortable talking about this very important life issue. Holy Spirit, please fill this conversation with your wisdom and grace. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Wow! Talk about a lot of information in a short period of time! Some of you just learned some things you never knew before. Maybe a lot of things!

To help us make sense of what we just saw, we’ve invited some men to answer some questions about sex and dating and romance and God.

Invite panel members to introduce themselves.

Panel moderator introduces the process...

Here’s how the panel discussion will work: You see some slips of scrap paper on your table. There’s enough for everybody to write several questions. Boys – write any question that comes to your mind. You can ask questions about your bodies, or girls’ bodies, or sex, or what God says about sex. Dads, you’re invited to write questions too – things you think these boys need to hear today. You might want to write questions about what boys should be thinking about, how they should relate to girls, questions about sex or dating or STDs or whatever is on your heart.

As you think of a question, write it down. Pass your questions to the panel. They will attempt to answer as many of them as possible. After a while, we’ll let you dads talk also.

Some of you have your Bibles with you. You’re also invited to share Scripture that you believe relates to a particular question.

We’ve already written down a few questions that we think you boys might need to be thinking about to get the ball rolling.

The first few questions below are good questions to “prime the pump”…
Questions (and Possible Answers)
About Puberty and Human Sexuality

While some of these questions are answered on the video, they may get asked again.

- What are the physical changes that are ahead?
  - First of all, these changes are normal bodily processes that God designed for every man.
  - Hair will start to grow on your face and neck, under your arms, around your groin, and on your legs, arms, and chest. Some guys get pretty hairy -- even on their backs; others have much less facial and body hair. Some guys could shave twice a day, and, for others, shaving once a day is more than enough. Whatever you experience is God’s “normal” for you.
  - Your voice will deepen. Some guys’ voices get very deep and low, others will be higher. If you’re one whose voice is higher, and you can carry a tune, that’s cool – you might become a rock star and make bazillions of dollars.

- What about changes in a girl’s body?
  - They also start to get hair under their arms and in their groin. Their breasts start to enlarge and their hips widen.
  - About 1½ to 3 years after girls start developing breasts, their ovaries get the signal to start ovulating, that is, to release an egg. (In hopes of making a baby).
  - The ovary also sends hormones to her uterus. These hormones help her uterus build a lining full of tissue and blood vessels (kind of like a cushion or nest) just waiting for a fertilized egg to make a home.
  - Most of the time, the egg that is released from the ovary does NOT meet a sperm. The egg is NOT fertilized and does not make a baby. The lining is no longer needed and her body sheds the lining. This is a woman’s “period” when that blood and tissue leaves her uterus and flows out the vagina. This is irregular at first; however, their bodies are designed to ovulate every month (26-37 days) lasting for 3-7 days.

- How old does a girl have to be before she can get pregnant?
  - As soon as she has her first period – as young as 9 years old in some unusual cases. The average age of first menstruation for a girl is around age 11.

- How old does a guy have to be before he can get a girl pregnant?
- Guys are generally a year or two behind girls in developing sexually. Researchers have discovered live sperm in the semen of boys as young as ten. That boy could father a child.

- What and why are zits/pimples?
  - Acne is a skin condition caused by a cycle of hormones, bacteria and inflammation. Some guys' skin gets oilier than others. You may sweat more because your glands are growing too. Pimples are a pretty normal part of adolescence for many guys and girls. Some people have acne their entire lives, but most of us live with it for just a few years in our teens.

- When will all this change start?
  - Some guys mature earlier than others. Some guys will reach their full adult height and be shaving by the time they’re 13 or 14. Other guys will still be growing and hardly shaving at all in their late teen years.
  - Girls start this maturing cycle a little ahead of boys. If you’re a shorter guy, there may be a number of girls in your grade taller than you for a while. But most of you will catch up to most of them soon enough.
  - You might want to ask the dads about when they started shaving, etc. As dads freely reveal these things about themselves, they’ll be communicating to the boys that these changes aren’t something to stress over. There might even be a funny story or two that surface.

- What are wet dreams?
  - Wet dreams are your body’s way of getting rid of excess sperm cells and semen. After the fluids in your testicles build up to a certain level, your body naturally gets rid of them in your sleep. This won’t surprise your dad and probably won’t surprise your mom. It’s very normal and just happens from time to time.

- Why do I sometimes have an erection when I wake up in the morning?
  - No one knows for sure. A man may experience several erections every night while he sleeps. Since erections are caused by a rush of blood flow to the penis, maybe this is God’s way of keeping our penises healthy.

- How are twins or triplets created?
  - More than one egg is released by the mother and both are fertilized. These are called “fraternal” twins.
  - A fertilized egg can also split and become twins. These are called “identical” twins because they come from the same egg and sperm and therefore look very much alike.
I'm not interested in girls. I don't get it.
- Sometime in the next few years your testicles will start to produce semen and sperm – and hormones to go with them. You'll find yourself more and more interested in girls. Looking at or touching a pretty girl can trigger a physical reaction in you. Your penis can start to get hard, and it feels good. There is an urge that wells up in us that says, do more of that. Look some more. Touch some more. Go farther. In marriage, that’s a great thing. But God says we are to wait until marriage for all that good sexual stuff. That’s why it’s so important for you to be careful how you look at and touch girls now. We dads have to be careful how we relate to women other than our wives, too.

Besides the physical differences between men and women, how are women different from men when it comes to sex?
- Guys are more visual. “intoxicated” by the female body.
- Guys’ eyes “finish the story…” Watch where your eyes roam.
- Guys who aren’t in tune with the Holy Spirit tend to use “love,” hoping to get sex.
- Girls who aren’t in tune to the Holy Spirit tend to use sex, hoping to get love.
- Scripture clearly says that we should put the needs of our spouse ahead of our own desires (Phil. 2:3-8; Eph. 5:21-28), just as Christ gave himself up for us. We should never use our wives to satisfy our sexual needs.

What is masturbation?
- Massaging the penis until it ejaculates. That means semen and sperm are released from the penis, which is what happens when a husband and wife have sexual intercourse.
- For older teens - Women can also masturbate by massaging their sex organs.

Why would somebody masturbate?
- Because it feels good and relieves sexual pressure that otherwise builds up. This release of pressure is especially true for a guy, because sperm and semen build up in your testicles.

Is masturbation wrong?
- The Bible does not say masturbation is a sin. At the same time, masturbation is often accompanied by thoughts that may be sinful. Is your mind focused on a specific woman who you want to use sexually to satisfy yourself? That is called lust and Jesus clearly said lust is wrong.
• What if a boy and girl make a bad choice and she gets pregnant?
  o First – there is forgiveness through God’s mercy. What can separate us from the love of God? (Nothing: Rom 8:38-39 below…)
  o Sometimes when teens get involved sexually and then get pregnant, they think the best thing to do is get an abortion. An abortion is when a doctor intentionally ends the life of the unborn child. While this removes the immediate pressure of what to do -- we’re not married, we’re too young to be parents, etc. -- it now introduces another problem into the situation: A human life has been ended as a matter of convenience to the teen parents and their families.
  o There are thousands of married couples waiting to adopt a baby. Adoption can be a life-giving gift to everyone involved.
    ▪ The child should be the first consideration and priority in this situation, since he/she is totally helpless and dependent on two people whose conscious choice brought him or her into the world. The adopted child gets to be raised by a mom and dad who love him/her dearly and who long to have children.

For older teens –
When should a baby be given up for adoption?

  o Giving a child up for adoption virtually gives the young lady her life back to continue pursuing her dreams – hopefully much wiser and more committed to following God’s will.
  o The young man has a chance to continue growing up until he’s ready to be a father and husband.
  o The couple isn’t pressured into a marriage where neither one is ready for marriage, or where they don’t even like each other.
  o Sometimes older teen moms decide to keep their child. This is challenging, because without a high school or college degree she faces a steep uphill struggle financially. And marrying a young man who is not mature enough to be a husband or a dad is not a good option either. That can really make matters worse.
  o In rare instances the couple is mature enough to keep the baby and be mom and dad and get married. But they face lots of challenges that will require lots of support from their families, for a long time to come.

• Does God say anything about abortion?
  o The Bible never uses the word abortion.
The Bible does say this: **Ps 139:13-16** “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

The questions to be considered:

- Is the thing growing inside the mother a part of her body? No, it’s clearly a separate human life.
- When does God “design” a person’s genetic make-up? From the moment of conception your genes have predetermined whether you are a boy or a girl, the color of your hair, whether you will need glasses, how tall you will be... From the moment that egg and sperm unite, God has ordained the days of your life.

Unfortunately, every abortion is the taking of an innocent human life. There are very rare instances where, unless a doctor takes the life of the unborn child, both baby and mother will die. But they are very rare. Most abortions performed since 1973 (when abortion was legalized in America) have been for the sake of convenience.

Abortion is not the answer to an inconvenient pregnancy. Abortion is a permanent consequence for a temporary problem. In fact...

An unplanned pregnancy should not be viewed as a “problem,” because every child is created in God’s image (with an eternal soul).

One more thing – a man of God is a man of honor. The honorable thing to do is to be there for the girl through the pregnancy and beyond, in whatever way is appropriate. An honorable man deals with the consequences of his mistakes. He doesn’t run away.

- What is homosexuality? (The following questions and answers about homosexuality have deliberately not used the noun “homosexual” to describe someone who has homosexual tendencies. We’ve sought to label homosexual behavior as sin without labeling such a person as a “homosexual.”)
  - Homosexuality is when a man is sexually attracted to men, or a woman is sexually attracted to women. If they act on that attraction, it means they have sexual relations with each other.

- What does the Bible say about homosexuality?
  - **Leviticus 18:22** – “Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.”
  - **Rom 1:26-27** Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural
ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

- There are two other passages in the Bible that clearly describe homosexuality as a sin (Leviticus 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- However, the Bible doesn’t say it is sinful to be attracted sexually to persons of the same sex, just as it is not sinful to be tempted to lust after someone of the opposite sex. It is the acting upon that attraction that is sin, whether with someone of the same sex or the opposite sex.

- What causes a person to have homosexual tendencies?
  - Some say that some people are born with a genetic predisposition to be attracted to persons of the same sex. Others say it’s a result of experiences in a person’s life. Either way, the Scriptures call homosexual behavior sin.

- How should we treat people who are attracted to persons of the same sex?
  - Some who claim to be Christians say that God hates homosexual sin so much that he hates anybody who is involved with it. Nothing could be further from the truth. God loves all sinners – whether we’re attracted to those of our own sex or the opposite sex! – so much that he sent Jesus to die for us all. He wants us to know him personally and he wants to live in our hearts through faith in Jesus. We are all sinners. We are called by God to love all sinners, everywhere, just as he does. But that doesn’t mean we should condone or accept sinful behavior.

- If sex is so much fun for both a man and a woman, why should we wait to have sex until we’re married?
  - Because God said so! (This is for our protection. He knows what’s best for us.) Here’s why God says we should wait until we are in a life-long, committed relationship (called marriage)...
    - Marriage vow = commitment. Something you can count on for the rest of your life. Why would you give yourself away for anything less than that? If your partner is willing to have sex outside of marriage with you, has she had sex with others before you? What’s to keep her from looking elsewhere when trouble comes to your relationship? And trouble comes to all relationships sooner or later.
    - Risk of pregnancy. Any time a woman ovulates she produces an egg just waiting to be fertilized to make a baby. When a man ejaculates, as many as 600 million sperm cells are released. Sex just once can lead to pregnancy.
Only one small sperm is needed to unite with an egg to form a new life.

- **For older teens - Are you ready to care for another human being?** Put your hopes and dreams on hold? Change your school plans? Do you have an income, money, shelter or food for the newborn child? Who will support you financially, emotionally, spiritually?

- **Married sex is better!** A large-scale study of 1,100 American adults by the Family Research Council found that 72% of married people who attended church weekly reported being "very satisfied" with their sex lives, **thirty points higher than their unmarried counterparts**, and thirteen points higher than other marrieds.

- **The reason married sex is better is that it is connected to love.** God designed sex to be a kind of glue to keep our love strong. *Sex can* happen between unmarried partners who are committed to each other for life, but… for many people today it is also a form of recreation with little or no long-term commitment, and little or no sense of being loved no matter what. Until a person has stood before God and his people and committed to love his bride “so long as we both shall live,” his commitment is questionable.

- **Also, marriage is a legal agreement between husband and wife, and there are legal ramifications if one or the other party doesn’t live up to his/her part of the agreement.** There is no such protection for the unmarried who live together.

- **Danger of catching a sexually-transmitted disease.** (See below)

**What about divorce? Is it wrong?**

- **Matt 19:9** “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.” -- Jesus

- Divorce is not God’s design. If a man and a woman are living according to God’s Word for relationships, they will be faithful to each other, they will encourage and forgive each other, they will love each other in good times and bad. But people are sinful. People are selfish.

  - Sometimes one spouse or the other is unfaithful sexually and commits adultery.
  - Sometimes one spouse abuses the other physically or emotionally or both.
  - Sometimes one spouse abuses the children.
  - Sometimes the only reasonable path to pursue is to separate and seek God. Ideally, God will lead separated couples to reunite with a stronger marriage than before. But life is not
always ideal. Just as God will forgive sexual sin, God can forgive the sins that lead a couple to divorce. God is a God of redemption. And he promises to work all things out for the good of those who love him. (Rom. 8:28)

- My sister is engaged and is living with her boyfriend. Is that wrong? If I get engaged, is it wrong to have sex?
  - 1 Cor 7:8-9 “Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.” – The Apostle Paul
  - Until you’re married, God is clear – don’t have sex.
  - For older teens - After you’re married there will be times when you won’t have sex for a week or two weeks or more – like toward the end of a pregnancy; or if one of you has some health issues. Waiting for sex now demonstrates to your future wife that she can trust you to wait then.

- What is oral sex? Is it a sin?
  - Oral sex is mouth contact with someone’s sex organs, also called genitals. Some teens do this and think it’s not sex. It definitely is sex and definitely is forbidden outside of marriage.
  - For older teens - Oral sex can be very risky in that diseases can be transferred. Some of those diseases can be very serious, even fatal. But the greatest “risk” is that you can’t engage in oral sex without physically desiring the other person, which outside of marriage is “lust” and forbidden by God. So outside of marriage, oral sex is always sinful.

- For older teens - Is oral sex a sin in marriage?
  - The Bible places very few restrictions on sexual activity between a man and his wife. Since Scripture doesn’t forbid it, most Christian leaders don’t view married oral sex as sin. However, just because it’s not identified as sin doesn’t mean we can expect it from our wives.
  - In regard to what sexual activities are appropriate in marriage, it seems we’re free to experiment and enjoy the gift of sex – so long as our spouse does not feel manipulated or coerced to do something she doesn’t want to do.
  - Remember – a man of God is a man of honor. You want to honor your wife in every way – especially in the sensitive area of sex. If you do honor her sexually, she will love you all the more. And if you don’t honor her sexually – if you pressure her to do things she doesn’t want to do, that will impact her feelings toward you in the area of sex, but those bad feelings will spill over into other areas of the marriage as well.
1 Cor 7:1-5  Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Is sexual sin worse than other kinds of sin?
- No. God clearly hates all sin. But he also clearly loves all people. But the consequences can be awfully painful – pregnancy, STDs, loneliness, guilt, a feeling of being abandoned by someone you put all your trust in…

Is thinking about sex a sin?
- It depends on the situation. If you're married and hoping all day to make love to your wife when you get home tonight, that's not sin. That's good planning – especially if you've been considerate and kind all week, honoring her ahead of yourself. (She may not say yes tonight, but she'll be glad you're interested, and she'll be more likely to say yes tomorrow!)
- If you're unmarried, it's best to limit sexual thoughts as much as you can. Sports are a good way to invest lots of energy in a direction other than sex. Finding projects where you serve others is also a great way to put your mind on things other than sex. Applying that energy to your homework will help you accomplish and learn more!
- Heb 4:15  “For we do not have a high priest (Jesus) who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are yet was without sin.”
- Jesus was tempted but sinless. Therefore it is not sinful to be tempted. But consider this word picture…
- You can't keep a bird from dive-bombing your head. But you can keep him from building a nest in your hair. Once an improper sexual thought has crossed your mind, you have two choices – indulge it, think about it, and sin. Let that bird build a nest in your hair. Or push the thought aside and think about something pure and godly. Shoo that bird away. You have a choice…
- One more thought from God about temptation: 1 Cor 10:13 “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what
you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” - The Apostle Paul

- Is it wrong to watch movies where people make love to each other?
  - Jesus said it's a sin to look at a woman with lust in your heart. It's so bad, in fact, that if it weren't for his death on the cross for us, we should gouge out our eye if we've used it to lust. Can you watch people making love on the movie screen without lusting? Not likely.
  - Matt 5:27-29 "You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.” --Jesus

- Why do so many people think there's nothing wrong with having sex outside of marriage?
  - Before the 1960's, sex outside of marriage or before marriage was much more rare. With the invention of birth control pills and other birth control methods in the 60's, the threat of pregnancy became less than it used to be.
  - Another reason why sex outside of marriage is more common is because abortion was made legal by a Supreme Court decision in 1973 – not by the U.S. Congress or by any legislative body. When the Supreme Court ruled that mothers could end their pregnancies with no threat of them or their doctor going to jail, from that point on abortions became more and more common, and one more consequence of sex was removed.
  - The number of babies aborted in the U.S. since 1973 is in the tens of millions. What must God think of that?

- Should I tell my little brother or sister about this stuff?
  - No – leave that to your parents. You're hearing a lot of stuff today that a little brother or sister is not ready to handle.
  - You also shouldn't bring this up on the playground or with your school friends. They should learn this from their dads. They'll be talking about it soon enough, anyway, and then you can help them get the facts straight.
Questions (and Possible Answers)
About Dating and Peer Pressure:

- When is it okay to start dating, or to kiss a girl for the first time?
  - There are Christians who wait to start dating until they’re married -- so the relationship isn’t about sex or kissing at all. Their focus before marriage is on finding the right person as a friend. Joshua Harris and Christian singer Rebecca St. James wrote a book about this idea called I Kissed Dating Goodbye.
  - Whether you “kiss dating goodbye” or not, you do have to decide in advance how far you will go physically, so that when you find yourself tempted to go farther than you know you should, you will know you’re not going to go any farther – even though your body wants you to do more.
  - Some people say it’s best to group date first. This can be great, as long as there’s adult supervision. Without adult supervision, some kids will find a way to do things they could later regret.
  - When is the right age to start dating or for your first kiss? This is a great question to discuss with your dad… and mom…
  - 1 Chronicles 29:17 “I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there.” (NLT)
  - Integrity means you make up your mind in advance to do the RIGHT thing. Don’t wait until your sexual purity is tested to decide when you’ll be pure. Decide in advance. It will help if you have determined in advance to treat every girl and every woman with godly honor.

- What can a kiss lead to?
  - Kissing a girl makes you feel closer to her, all warm and fuzzy inside. It makes you want to hold her close, hold hands, touch her body. Touching her body makes you want to touch her more, and your hands instinctively will want to go to the places that make her feel good. It all starts with a kiss. That’s why it’s important to know in advance where you’re going to draw the line.

- How far is too far? How much physical stuff should I save until marriage?
  - First, that’s probably the wrong question. That’s like a guy who has vertigo asking, “How close can I get to the edge of this cliff?” Vertigo is a tendency to get dizzy when looking down from a high place. If you know you’re going to get dizzy, and you want to live, are you going to see how close to the edge you can get? No – you’re going to stay as far away as necessary to make sure there’s no chance of falling.
That’s the attitude you need to take into your dating experiences. Stay as far away from the things that tempt you as you need to, to protect yourself and the girl from falling.

For older teens - For sure a great rule of thumb is this – if you keep your hands to yourself, and you both keep your clothes on – you’re not going to fall off the edge of the cliff. That doesn’t guarantee you won’t sin sexually, but it does protect you from some of the most extreme consequences of sexual sin.

For older teens - What should I say to a guy who brags about what he did with his girlfriend last night?

There are three basic responses you can attempt:

1. Pray for him. *James 5:16* – “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

2. Confront him gently and let him know that what he’s doing is wrong. Explain to him what you know about the possible consequences of premarital sex. But above all, the riskiest part of sex outside of marriage is walking outside the boundaries of protection God laid down for us: *Gal 6:1* – “…if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.”

3. If you start to feel tempted or pressured to loosen your moral standards, you may need to end the relationship and keep your distance. Paul said in *1 Cor 6:18*, “Flee from sexual immorality.” This might cost you popularity, but who would you rather be connected to – people deliberately sinning, or the Lord of the universe whose love for you will never end? (You can still pray for your friend, though!)

What is “sexting”?

Sexting is when someone takes a picture of themselves or someone else in a sexually suggestive pose and then sends that picture to someone else’s cell phone or email address. Besides this being sinful, if the person in the picture is a minor, it’s also against the law! Kids who do this are taking tremendous risks. Once a text message or picture finds itself to someone else’s phone or inbox or Facebook page, you have no control over who will see it or what they will do with it. Some teens have suffered great pain because a message or picture they sent to a friend went somewhere they never intended or even imagined.

How do you know when a girl likes you?

Usually, you’ll know. Girls are generally very good at getting a guy’s attention. They’ll make lots of eye contact and smile a lot. They’ll make conversation with you more. At your age, some girls might get physical with you in a rough-housing kind of way…
Questions (and Possible Answers) About Dating and Marriage:

- How do you pick the perfect girl?
  - There are no perfect girls – just as there are no perfect boys. But there are lots of girls that are better for you than others. Since we’re so drawn to physically attractive girls, we might miss out on some great friendships that could help us refine our search for “Miss Right.”
  - Here’s a great principle to follow as you think about who you might marry: A girl should be so in love with God that a guy has to seek God to find her. If you give the whole process over to God, you’ll be so blessed you won’t believe it!

- Did God create you to be with just one woman? Is there a “Miss Right” out there that God has destined you to be with?
  - Maybe. But not necessarily. Some people think that every day of their life has been pre-scripted by God. That’s actually a philosophy called fatalism. You won’t find that in the Bible. Scripture encourages us in hundreds of places to make the right choices. That wouldn’t be so if everything about our lives was predetermined.
  - At the same time, many Christian men and women will tell you that their spouse is a gift from God, and they will be correct when they say it. Is there one and only one “Miss Right” for you? Maybe. But probably not. God gives us plenty of guidance about what kind of friends we should look for – and the person you marry will be your best friend. Just set your sights high and pray for your future wife. Then keep your eyes and hearts open and don’t let her get away when you find her. But that’s a long way off.

- How do you know if the girl you’re dating is the one you should marry?
  - If you’ve been praying for certain characteristics, you’ll know. But don’t expect love at first sight. You’ll need to spend quite a bit of time with a woman to test how the relationship will work – and to give each of you time to get so comfortable together that you are more and more honest with each other. And – that will be many years from now – for most of you, over ten years or more.
  - Dating has been defined as an extended process through which we attempt to deceive someone of the opposite sex into thinking we’re someone that we’re not. Your goal before you get engaged to a young woman should be to know each other so well that there will be few surprises about each other after you get married.
• How long should you date before you get married? What's the right age to get married?
  o It depends on several things –
    ▪ How long you've known each other.
    ▪ How honest your relationship is.
    ▪ You want to be old enough so that you're ready to commit yourselves to each other for the rest of your lives.

• Is it wrong to marry someone who is not a Christian?
  o The Bible says we should not partner with unchristian people…
    2 Cor 6:14a -- Do not be yoked together with unbelievers…
  o The word picture God uses in this passage is the “yoke” that harnesses a beast of burden. Sometimes to get more pulling power a farmer would harness two oxen side by side. But they would need to be fairly equal in strength. If one of them was stronger, it would be difficult keeping the team going where it was supposed to go.
  o In the same way, it would be difficult to keep a marriage going in the same direction if one of the spouses was a believer and the other wasn’t. There will be tension about how to raise the kids, how much money to give away and to which causes, etc.

• What if I never get married? What if I don’t want to get married?
  o Paul said in 1 Cor 7:8 -- Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am.
  o For those who don’t burn with sexual passion, to not be married is a great blessing. More of your time and thoughts can be devoted to sharing Christ with others. But don’t forget, sharing Christ with your own children can be the most powerful mission work anyone could ever do!

• How will you know that what the two of you have is a marrying kind of love?
  o First, you’ll be old enough to get married and start a family. Until then, it’s not a marrying kind of love.
  o Second, you’ll have had friendships with other girls so you know what kind of friendship you’re looking for.
  o Third, it’s good if you’re physically attracted to her. The sexual part of marriage can really help carry you through hard times.
  o Fourth and most important, she will be a Christian. And she will love God deeply.
STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

By eighth or ninth grade young people need to have heard the following information about the dangers of extra-marital sex. Use your own discretion as to whether your audience at this retreat needs to hear any of the following...

- **STDs are infections caused by viruses, bacteria and protozoa spread through vaginal, oral and anal sex and genital skin-to-skin contact.**

- Some STDs have no symptoms. Some have discharge, itching, painful sores, bumps, or warts. Some lead to “PID” – causing damage to a woman’s fallopian tubes, pelvic pain, infertility and tubal pregnancy-GC/Chlamydia. Some cause death - syphilis and AIDS from HIV.

- **AIDS Object lesson** -- You can have HIV with no symptoms for up to ten years. Then it develops into AIDS. If during those ten years you were to have sex with just two or three people, and each of them got the virus from you, and each of them had sex with just two or three other people who also got the virus, and each of them with 2 or 3 other people, and so on, it wouldn’t take long for hundreds of people to be infected – and no one would even know it yet. Show this on a white board or newsprint, or have everybody take a position as outlined below, until you run out of people. If you have guys take positions like the diagram below, be sure to identify how many people would be infected by the next wave of sexual promiscuity, and the one after that, etc. Take the numbers as far you like.

X (1 infected)

X       X       X (4 infected)

X       X       X       X       X       X       X       X       X       X (13 infected)

XXX      XXX      XXX      XXX      XXX      XXX      XXX      XXX      XXX (40 infected)

(121 infected)

(364 infected)

All because you decided to enjoy sex with someone outside marriage. And some people who have sex outside of marriage like this have more than three partners.
over a ten-year period. The numbers of infected people could be higher – without anyone knowing they had the disease!

- Sexually transmitted viruses cause infections that cannot be cured. Medicine can slow down viruses, but cannot eliminate them.
- Infections caused by bacteria and protozoa can usually be treated with medicines called antibiotics.

Clear Tape Object Lesson-
- Place a nice fresh clear (not opaque or frosted) piece of tape on your arm.
- This is sticking nicely. There is a good bond. The tape is not separating from the skin. The arm and tape now move as one. This is similar to sex with a husband and wife when it is pure. God says in Genesis…. Man and woman become ONE FLESH. That means that when they have sexual intercourse, they form a union, a partnership, that is so close, so intimate, they feel this unity, this oneness, that is stronger than any other human relationship.
- The gift of sex is good. Having a healthy sexual relationship helps to keep their marriage strong and together, no matter how much the arm moves (wave your arm) or the earth shakes. This is how God intended his gift to be shared. More than just physical pleasure – you connect emotionally.
- Now, what happens if you choose to have a sexual relationship that is not with your wife? The relationship ends. Now pull off the tape and hold it up. DON'T CRUMPLE IT OR STICK IT TO ITSELF. KEEP IT STRAIGHT SO IT COULD BE STUCK BACK ONTO SOMETHING ELSE.
- Look at the tape – hold it up to the light. Look at how much stuff comes off your arm. All that stuff represents the diseases and infection that you could get from a girl who’s had sex with somebody else. Do you know what’s on it? Does she? Remember some STDs have no symptoms. Do you want this tape on you? Do you want the diseases she may have been exposed to?
- Now pass this tape to the person on your right. And put the new tape on your arm. Yech! Now all that stuff is mixing up on the tape. How much is coming off on you? You have all that stuff on there!! What does that feel like? This compares to STDs – you have no control over what came from the other person and is going into you.
- Now pass it to someone else, stick it to your arm, pull it off and pass it right again… pause for them to do this…
- and again! Pause for them to do this …
- How much is that tape sticking now?
- How close is the bond going to be to your wife if you keep using the tape and being exposed to someone who is not your spouse?
- When you have sex with a girl, it's like you're having sex with every sexual partner she's ever been with. Every disease she's been exposed to, you're
now exposed to. That’s why sexually transmitted diseases are rampant in our country today.

- God gave us the wonderful gift of sex to be cherished in marriage. Do you want to save it for God’s purpose?
- Everyone get a new piece of CLEAR TAPE. Wait until everyone has a clean piece of tape.
- Jesus forgives any sin of anyone who repents of that sin and looks to him for forgiveness. When some men brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, he told her that he didn’t condemn her – and then he told her to go and sin no more. Our tape is wiped clean by the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross for us.
- Read Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12 – Describe David’s sin with Bathsheba. David’s regret was so intense, but there was forgiveness for David. There can be forgiveness for us, too. Nothing we do -- other than outright rejection of God -- can separate us from the love of God in Jesus.

Closing Prayer:

- Thank you, God, for the gift of sex. Thank you for how you designed men and women to fit together physically. Thank you that you made sex to be something that feels so good to both husband and wife. Thank you for how sex can bind a husband and wife together during difficult times. Thank you that the gift of children comes from sex. Thank you for putting us in families so we have dads and moms, each of whom has a different role to play.

Give us the strength to treat girls and women with respect and honor. Please God, give every person in our families a pure heart… In Jesus’ name. AMEN.
Additional Scriptures About Sex:

- What does God say about sex? (All passages are from the NIV)
  - **Gen 1:28a** God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it…"
  - **Gen 1:31** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good…
  - **Exod 20:14** "You shall not commit adultery."
  - **Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12** (David’s prayer after his sin of adultery with Bathsheba was exposed by the prophet Nathan) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin...Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
  - **Psalm 139:13-16** (Use to explain why abortion is wrong.) For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
  - **Prov 20:11** (Use to encourage right living and right treatment of women NOW.) Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.
  - **Matt 5:32** But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.
  - **Matt 19:4-6** (Jesus) said, "Haven't you read... that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."
  - **Rom 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
  - **Rom 8:35-39** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **1 Cor 6:18-20** Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

- **Eph 5:25-31** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

- **Phil 4:8-9** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- **1Thes 4:3-7** It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.
Summary/Outline of this component:

- This event concludes the retreat. It begins with a father-son trust walk, which lays an experiential foundation for the *faithfulness* theme.
- At the end of the trust walk, each dad hands his blindfolded son a baton and leads his son to a cross, where Dad removes his son’s blindfold.
- The dads and sons talk one-on-one about the meaning of the trust walk, the baton, and the cross.
- You lead a discussion about the meaning of the trust walk, etc.
- Someone reads “The Race.”
- Dads bless their sons one last time.
- Practice how you’ll do the blessing event in a worship service. Tell them when it will take place.
- Close with prayer.

Prepare by reading and studying the Bible

- Read John 10:11-15, 27-30 several times. Read also 2 Corinthians 5:15.
- This is not a Bible-tell as much as it is an experiential learning event that pulls the whole retreat together and focuses everything on Jesus, the good shepherd who laid down his life for us, his sheep.
- The main theme of this debriefing time is *faithfulness*:
  - Jesus was *faithful* to the end, laying his life down willingly so that we might have eternal life.
  - All of us are invited to be *faithful* in return, to follow Jesus wherever he leads, to live our lives for the one who gave his life for us.
  - Dads will communicate to their sons their resolve to *BE THERE* for their sons, no matter what.

Choose a location for the trust walk

- Locate it near a cross, or erect a large cross near a clearing or open area, large enough for the group to circle up for the final blessing spoken by the dads.
- It’s best if some of the terrain is a little rugged so the sons have to make their way through trees, tall weeds, over fallen logs, etc.

Supplies you’ll need

- A baton for each son.
- A blindfold for each son.
- A facial tissue for each son’s blindfold. (Explanation below…)

Faith Legacy Series: “*God’s Plan for a Man*” – Be Faithful to the End - 1
• A copy of “The Race” to read near the end
• A Bible
• A large cross
• Keep the batons hidden until the sons are all blindfolded.
• For the Group Debrief and Bible Teaching, it will be helpful to have the
  “paragraph points” on paper in your Bible; these will help you include the main
  points without getting off track.
• Certain key Bible verses should be read as the teaching progresses.
• Plan to interact with the audience as much as possible. Don’t speak too long
  without getting the audience involved.
• Practice out loud to an imaginary audience several times.
• (There is a video clip on the retreat DVD that explains how to deliver this
  Bible-tell. Follow along below as you watch the video.)

Getting Ready for the Trust Walk
• One leader takes the dads aside and reminds them how the trust walk works and
  gives them their batons. (No matter how well you’ve explained the trust walk in
  advance, some dads may still have questions. Your explanation here is simply a
  summary of the instructions found on the handout “Anticipating Conversations
  With Your Son.” These instructions are printed verbatim below.)
• While one leader talks with the dads, a second leader helps the boys blindfold
  each other, following the instructions below. As he does this, he keeps them all
  engaged by inviting them to tell about a time when they were lost.
  o Tear a facial tissue in half, wad each half up lightly.
  o The son being blindfolded holds the tissue wads over his eyelids while
    someone else places a blindfold over the tissue and secures the blindfold
    so it won’t slip off. (The sons are unable to peek since the wadded-up
    tissue forces their eyes closed.)
• Check to make sure the boys can’t open their eyes and that the blindfolds are
  secure. By now the dads should be spread out surrounding the boys, at least 50
  feet away. If not, guide a conversation with the sons:
  o Invite them to tell about a time when they were lost…
  o Or you tell about a time when you were lost…

Transition Question
• Once dads are in place, ask the sons this question: If you were really lost and
didn’t know where to turn, whose voice would you trust to lead you? (out of
it?) Motion to the dads to start calling to their sons by name.

“Doing the Walk” and “Debriefing the Walk” below
have been copied directly from the handout
“Anticipating Conversations With Your Son.”
Doing the Walk:
- When you start the trust walk, your sons will be clustered together in a group. You dads will spread out and position yourself at least 50 feet from your son.
- Your cue to start calling for your son will be when the leader says, "If you were really lost and didn’t know where to turn, whose voice would you trust to lead you out?"
- Your son will be forced to distinguish your voice from among the other dads as you call him to come to you.
- Then move far enough away from him, and speak softly enough, that your son will have to strain to hear you and follow.
- Take him on a long walk, around & over many obstacles. The more challenging, the better. This should take a minimum of 10 minutes. Some dads take 20 minutes or even a little longer – depending in part on how adventurous their son is.

Lead him to the Cross:
- Toward the end of the walk, be positioned near the cross. When you’re no more than 20 feet from the cross, let your son get close to you and invite him to reach out his hand. Place the baton in his hand while still holding onto it yourself. Lead him with the baton the last few steps to the cross.
- You may have to wait your turn to approach the cross. It will be best if only one dad and son team are there at a time. Have him reach out with his free hand and grab hold of the cross. While he’s holding onto both the cross and the baton, take his blindfold off. Once he sees what he’s holding onto, move away from the cross so other dads and sons can touch it.
- Go somewhere where you can talk privately, but stay within earshot and a visual line of sight so you can all gather when it’s time.

Dad and Son Debriefing the Walk:
*Here are some things you might talk about with your son… possible answers are listed for your consideration. Please don’t read these answers to your son. Whatever you say to your son here needs to come from your heart, not a sheet of paper.*

Also, don’t feel like you have to remember everything below. After you talk with your son about this, there will be a debriefing time with the whole group. Whatever ideas you forget, some other dad or son will mention. Just relax and enjoy the chance to reflect and talk with your son.

- Why do you think I led you to the cross the way I did?
  - The cross is the symbol of God’s faithfulness -- Jesus gave his all for you. If you were the only person in the world, Jesus would have gone to the cross just for you.
  - Our sins are forgiven and we can totally trust God to BE THERE for us. (These are the last words Jesus spoke before leaving this world: *I will be with you always...*)
• Why do you think I spoke so quietly at times?
  o So you had to work to hear my voice among the rest. Sometimes we feel alone. But you can count on two things to always be true –
    ▪ **God** is there, we just have to slow down and listen for his voice leading us in our heart and in his Word.
    ▪ *I* will always be there for you. In the years ahead, there may be times when you feel like I’m not there, or I’m not on your side. It might also mean I’m making a hard decision that’s best for you, but you don’t like it at the time. But my motive for all this is love. I love you, son, with a love that will never end.
    ▪ There are lots of competing voices in your world. My prayer is that you’ll focus on God’s voice and seek to follow him.
    ▪ It wasn’t easy for you to hear me. You had to work at it. In the same way, it’s not always easy to follow God or discern his will. Spending time reading the Bible will help you know his will for you and will give you strength to do the right thing.

• Tell your son about a time when you followed where God was leading you. (You’ve tried to follow Christ’s lead throughout your life, and now you’re inviting your son to do the same.) (Example – Doing the right thing… making a decision because you felt God wanted it.)

• Tell your son about another time, when you didn’t follow God’s lead. What was the result? Talk about what it means to you to know you’re forgiven. Invite your son to talk about when God’s forgiveness was real to him.

• Tell him that you intend to **BE THERE** for him the rest of his life. You promise to be faithful to him, no matter what, just as God has been faithful to you.

• Tell him that the baton is a special thing between the two of you. If he ever wants your undivided attention, all he has to do is bring you the baton and you’ll know he has something important to talk about.

• Pray a prayer thanking God for your son. Be specific. Mention the positive personality and character traits that you’ve seen in him over the years – even if you haven’t seen him demonstrate those character strengths recently.

• Invite him to pray for you as well – Let’s pray for each other. How can I pray for you, son? Would you like to know how you could pray for me?
The following instructions are for the Bible-Tell presenter. They are similar to the debriefing questions provided to dads in the handout “Anticipating Conversations With Your Son”.

**Group Debrief and Bible Teaching**

For this discussion you have two goals –

1. to debrief the trust walk, letting dads and sons share the fun of what they experienced and some insights they gleaned from the walk; and
2. to invite everyone in the group to come to the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for the flock. There may be dads or sons who do not have a relationship with Christ that’s characterized by full trust. They may not have made it a practice to listen for his voice in life.

As you let guys talk, the following insights can be flushed out in whatever order they surface...

- **Let’s talk about what just happened. What was it that was fun for you?**
- **Was any of it a little scary? Who has a story… (Invite dads to talk too…)**
- **Was it ever hard to hear your dad’s voice? Why do you think your dad spoke so quietly or moved so far away at times?**
  - Let kids (and dads) give their answers. Help them discover the following:
  - You had to work to hear your dad’s voice among the other dads’ voices.
  - Sometimes we may feel like God’s not there and we’re all alone. But you can count on two things to always be true –
    - **God** is there, we just have to slow down and listen for his voice leading us in our heart and in his Word. And maybe he’s allowing us to go through a time when he won't speak as clearly, because he has a special blessing or lesson he’s preparing for us.
    - **Your dad** will always be there for you. In the years ahead, there may be times when you feel like he’s not there, or he’s not on your side. That might mean he’s making a hard decision that’s best for you, but you may not like it at the time.
  - There are lots of competing voices in your world. Focus on God’s voice and seek to follow him and you’ll be blessed! (This doesn’t mean everything will always be rosy for you. You will go through tough times. That’s part of life. But God promises to be with you.)
  - It wasn’t easy for you to hear your dad sometimes. You had to work at it. In the same way, it’s not always easy to follow God or discern his will. Spending time reading the Bible will help you know his will for you and will give you strength to do the right thing.
• Why do you think your dad led you to the cross the way he did?
  o Let kids (and dads) give their answers.

• Listen to Jesus’ words in John 10:11-15…
  11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-- and I lay down my life for the sheep. (NIV)
  o What did the good shepherd do? (Let kids and dads answer…) He laid down his life for his sheep.
  o Under what circumstances might a shepherd risk his life for his sheep? To save them from wild animals or thieves.
  o Who is the good shepherd? Jesus.
  o Who are his sheep? We are.
  o Why did Jesus call himself the good shepherd? What did he do for us? Gave his life on the cross for our forgiveness so that we would have life with him – both here, and life in heaven forever.

• In the trust walk, you were blindfolded. So you were especially attentive to the things you heard. You listened for your dad’s voice very intently.

• Listen to what Jesus said in John 10:27-28
  27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. (NIV)

• We listen to Jesus’ voice, and we follow him. What does it mean to follow Jesus? What are some of the things we’ve talked about in this retreat that would be following Jesus?
  o Let kids (and dads) give their answers…
  o Then summarize with the following thoughts:
    o A man of God is courageous. David showed amazing courage against Goliath – because his eyes were focused on how big God is. Following Jesus means we can be courageous against whatever giants come our way, because we know he is always with us.
    o A man of God is honorable. Joseph lived an honorable life, yet it looked over and over again like it didn’t matter – bad things kept happening to him – until finally he was rewarded beyond his wildest dreams! Following Jesus means doing the right thing, even if it gets us in trouble or causes us pain. It means treating others, especially women, with respect.
    o A man of God is faithful to the end. Following Jesus means listening for his voice – the voice that encourages us to do the right thing when we’re
tempted. The voice that assures us we’re forgiven when we fall. The voice that invites us to have life with him, both now and forever.

Prayer to Respond to the Good Shepherd’s Voice

- Dear God, thank you that you have given us the Good Shepherd, Jesus your own Son. And Jesus, thank you for laying your life down for us. Thank you for dying on the cross to pay the punishment for our sin. You’ve called us to receive your forgiveness. We do so now. Please forgive us. You’ve called us to follow you, and we say “yes!” Help us to listen in our hearts for your voice to guide us. We will follow wherever you lead us. And you’ve called us to be men of God. With your help we will be courageous, honorable and faithful to the end. Amen.

The Race

- Dads and sons, hold on to that baton together.
- Read the poem “The Race.”
- After the poem is read, say the following:
  - When we **yield to temptation** and give in to sin, Jesus says to us, “Get up and start over. I am with you.”
  - When we stumble and fall and we **feel like a failure**, God says to us, “Get up and start over. I believe in you.”
  - When we feel like we’re **running blind** and we can’t see where our lives are headed, Jesus says, “Follow me. I’ll show you the way.”

The Blessing

- Gather the group in a tight circle, boys inside and facing each other, dads behind them, hands on their shoulders.
  - **Boys, your dads intend to **BE THERE** for you the rest of their lives, no matter what, just as God has been faithful to them. Your dad wants to be faithful to the end – to God and to you. And he wants you to be faithful to the end, too.**
  - The baton is a symbol of the relationship your dad wants you to have with God. Your dad can’t carry your faith for you. You have to carry that baton yourself. There will be times when you’ll drop the baton. You’ll sin. God will be there to forgive you and help you start over. There will be times when you’ll have doubts about God. Your dad will be there to help with your questions.
  - The baton is also a special symbol of the connection between you and your dad. If you ever want your dad’s undivided attention, just bring him the baton and he’ll know you have something important to talk about.

- This is the final blessing your dad will speak over you this weekend. Listen to his words, yes, but listen especially to his heart.
- Have the dads bless their sons…

Faith Legacy Series: “God’s Plan for a Man” – Be Faithful to the End - 7
Close this blessing time with a prayer… **Lord Jesus, you are our good shepherd. Thank you for giving your life for us. You were faithful to the end so that we might live with you forever. But you also gave your life so that we might have life to the full – right here and now. Help us to listen to your voice. Thank you. Help us, Holy Spirit, to be faithful to you in return. We want to be courageous in the face of giants, honorable in the face of temptation, and faithful to the end.**

Wrap things up…
- Collect blindfolds.
- Practice the group blessing as you’ll do it in the worship service.
- Announce the day and time of the service.
- Take a group picture.

Final Blessing
- Speak the blessing over them one final time: **I bless you all to be men of God. Be courageous in the face of giants. Be honorable in the face of __. Be faithful to the end.**
Name tags, markers (2 name tags per person, one for Friday and one for Saturday)
- Pencils/paper for Saturday a.m. panel discussion
- Capture the Flag supplies
  - Red flagging tape and green flagging tape (non adhesive) – if playing in daylight
  - Red glow necklaces and green glow necklaces (if playing at dusk) – Type “glow necklaces” into your web browser
  - Extra glow necklaces to mark center line, Frisbees, and Flags (if playing at dusk)
  - Two identical objects to serve as Flags (balls, bean bags, Frisbees…)
  - 20-25 cones or other objects to mark jail zones, flag zones and center line
  - Soft Frisbees (optional)
- Additional Football supplies
  - Football
- Additional Nuclear Meltdown supplies (in case of rain)
  - 14 small, light balls to perch on cones
  - Eight hula hoops
- Silver runner’s batons - Order from Kids Kount Publishing
- “How You Are Changing” video (ages 10-12) – Order from Kids Kount Publishing
- Masking tape or packing tape
- Blindfolds and Box of tissues to put inside blindfolds (for trust walk)
- Traveling First Aid Kit
- Bull Horn (optional – for outdoor games)
- Song sheets for campfire worship
- Flashlight
- Whistles for Refs
- Welcome sign that tells dads where to go/how to get to game area…
- Materials Coordinator: Folders for dads containing:
  - Handout - “The Race” poem
  - Handout - “Anticipating Conversations”
  - Handout with retreat schedule, camp contact info, medical information
  - Map of campsite (if necessary)
  - Songsheets for campfire worship
  - God Talk at Home devotions (3)
A note to participants –
Be sure to bring your baton to the blessing event.

Pastor:
Invite retreat participants to come forward. Introduce Faith Step Coordinator, who continues with the following.

Faith Step Coordinator:
These fathers and sons spent the weekend reflecting on what it means to be a man of God. This retreat is part of the Faith Legacy Series, which is designed to help families grow spiritually. From birth through age 8, parents meet together every other year to discuss how they can effectively nurture their children’s faith and be the best parents they can be. Starting at age 10, children and parents participate in events together. And starting in seventh grade, the events happen every year.

Pastor:
At each Faith Legacy step, parents speak a blessing to their children and give them a gift to symbolize that step and to facilitate faith conversations at home. Some families keep these blessing objects in faith chests like this one. As these dads blessed their sons yesterday, they handed them a baton like this one.

Faith Step Coordinator:
When these dads handed the baton to their sons yesterday, they said these words:
“Be a man of God. Be courageous. Be honorable. Be faithful to the end --"
  •  **Courageous**, like David, as he faced Goliath and impossible odds.
  •  **Honorable**, like Joseph, who refused the sexual advances of Potiphar’s wife.
  •  **Faithful**, like Jesus, who gave his life for us, and who now invites us to follow him, wherever he leads.

Pastor:
Let’s take a moment to lift these fathers and sons up in prayer.
Heavenly Father, thank you…
  •  Thank you for how you designed a son’s heart to connect with his dad.
  •  Thank you for how you’re helping these fathers connect with these sons right here, right now.
  •  Thank you for how you connected with us, your children, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

We pray that you would fill all of us, but especially these dads and sons, with your Holy Spirit, that we might be courageous, honorable, and faithful throughout our lives -- faithful to the end. In Jesus’ name. Amen.
Faith Step Coordinator:
Now it’s time for these young men and their dads to declare publicly their commitment to be men of God. Are you ready, guys? Let’s do this –

Fathers and Sons:
**Be a man of God. Be courageous. Be honorable. Be faithful to the end. Hoo-ahhh!!**

Pastor:
Let’s thank God for what he’s doing in the lives of these fathers and sons. *(Applause as the dads and sons return to their seats…)*
Scope and Sequence

Every two years of a child’s younger years, and every year starting in seventh grade, Faith Legacy wants to help families take another step in spiritual growth through a combination of classes, seminars, retreats, and blessing events.

**Birth**

**Faith Step:** *Faith Chest*

- Parenting classes

 Legacy Point 1: How to Give a Legacy of Faith to Your Child
 Legacy Point 2: How to Bless Your Child
 Legacy Point 3: Baptism or Baby Dedication
 Blessing Object: *Faith Chest*

**Two year-olds**

**Faith Step:** *Picture Bible*

- Parenting classes

 Legacy Point 1: How to Share Faith with Your Two Year-Old
 Legacy Point 2: Spiritual Parenting
 Legacy Point 3: Bless Your Child
 Blessing Object: *Picture Bible*

**Four year-olds**

**Faith Step:** *Worship Kit*

- Parenting classes

 Legacy Point 1: How to Worship God
 Legacy Point 2: Worship and Media
 Legacy Point 3: Bless Your Child with a Life of Worship
 Blessing Object: *Worship Kit*

**Six year-olds (1st Grade)**

**Faith Step:** *Towel and Basin*

- Parenting classes

 Legacy Point 1: How to Have Family Devotions with Your Six-Year-Old
 Legacy Point 2: How to Teach your Child to Serve
 Legacy Point 3: How to Teach Your Child to Give
 Blessing Object: *Towel & Basin*
Eight year-olds (3rd Grade)

Faith Step: First Bible
Parenting classes

Legacy Point 1: How to Have Family Devotions
Legacy Point 2: Use the Bible in Your Personal Devotions
Legacy Point 3: How to Be Blessed With the Bible
Blessing Object: Bible

Ten year-old Boys (5th and/or 6th Grade)

Faith Step: God’s Plan for a Man
Father-Son Retreat

Legacy Point 1: Be Courageous (Friday night)
Legacy Point 2: Be Honorable (Saturday morning)
Legacy Point 3: Be Faithful to the End (Saturday afternoon)
Blessing Object: “Be a Man of God” Runners Engraved Baton

Ten year-old Girls (5th and/or 6th Grade)

Faith Step: God’s Design for His Daughters
Mother-Daughter Retreat

Legacy Point 1: Be Cherished (Friday night)
Legacy Point 2: Be Pure (Saturday morning)
Legacy Point 3: Be Faithful to the End (Saturday afternoon)
Blessing Object: “From Me to You” journal and charm bracelet

7th Grade

Faith Step: A Teenage Home Where Everybody Wins (and nobody kills each other)
Parent/student seminar

Legacy Point 1: Make the Teen Years Great by Honoring Each Other
Legacy Point 2: Create an Atmosphere of Honor
Legacy Point 3: When in Conflict, Honor Each Other
Blessing Object: “u talk i listen” cards

8th Grade

Faith Step: What’s God Been Saying to You Lately?
Parent/student seminar

Legacy Point 1: God Wants to Speak to You Today
Legacy Point 2: Be Intentional With a Plan
Legacy Point 3: Connect As a Family
Blessing Object: “So What Has God Been Saying to You Lately” journal
9th Grade
Faith Step: A Teenage Home Where Sex Isn’t a Dirty Word
Parent/student seminar

Legacy Point 1: Understand Sex God’s Way
Legacy Point 2: Understand Sex the World’s Way
Legacy Point 3: Pursue Purity Together
Blessing Object: Purity ring

10th Grade
Faith Step: Looking Ahead-Life After High School
Parent/student seminar

Legacy Point 1: What is God’s Purpose for My Life
Legacy Point 2: Becoming the You That You Were Meant to Be
Legacy Point 3: It’s Time to Plan
Blessing Object: Personalized plaque

10th Grade
Faith Step: Enjoy the Ride—More than just a Driver’s License
Parent/student seminar

Legacy Point 1: God Has A Plan for Growing Independence
Legacy Point 2: Learn and Use the Language of Accountability and Trust
Legacy Point 3: Clarify Expectations for Responsible Choices
Blessing Object: Enjoy the Ride! Key fob

11th Grade
Faith Step: Keeping God in Your Relationships
Parent/student seminar

Legacy Point 1: Keep God in Your Friendships
Legacy Point 2: Keep God in Your Dating/Courtship
Legacy Point 3: Keep God in Your Marriage
Blessing Object: Mountain climbing carabiner and “Letter to My Future Spouse”

12th Grade
Faith Step: Leaving Home with a Faith that Sticks
Parent/student seminar

Legacy Point 1: Why Faith Doesn’t Stick
Legacy Point 2: Who Am I? Who Cares?
Legacy Point 3: We Need a Sticky Web—the Church!
Blessing Object: Prayer Blanket
Helping Families Grow Spiritually
Sponsored by Kids Kount and Family Ministry

Every two years of your child’s younger years, and every year starting in seventh grade, we want to help your family take another step in spiritual growth through a combination of classes, seminars, retreats, and blessing events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s Age</th>
<th>Name of Step</th>
<th>Class Dates &amp; Date of Blessing Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Items for Child’s Faith Chest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any age, usually infant</td>
<td>“Building a Faith Chest”</td>
<td>Three sessions offered each month in connection with the monthly baptism class</td>
<td>Sundays 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Faith Chest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>“Picture Bible”</td>
<td>Nov. 7, 14, 21, 2010 Blessing Dec. 5 at 11:00 am Service</td>
<td>Sundays 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Picture Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>“Worship Kit”</td>
<td>Jan. 9, 16, 23, 2011 Blessing Jan. 29 at 5:30 pm Service</td>
<td>Sundays 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Worship Kit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 years (1st Grade)</td>
<td>“Towel and Basin”</td>
<td>Sept. 12, 19, 26, 2010 Blessing Oct. 3 at 11:00 am Service</td>
<td>Sundays 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Towel and Basin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 years (3rd Grade)</td>
<td>“First Bible”</td>
<td>Oct. 3, 10, 17, 2010 Blessing Oct. 24 at 8:00 am Service</td>
<td>Sundays 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Bible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Pre-Teen Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name of Step</th>
<th>Seminar/ Retreat Date &amp; Date of Blessing Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Items for Child’s Faith Chest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th-6th Grades</td>
<td>“God’s Plan for a Man” Father-Son Retreat</td>
<td>Orientation for Dads: Sept 29, 6:45-8 pm&lt;br&gt;Retreat Oct 15-16, 2010&lt;br&gt;Blessing: Oct. 17 at 9:15 am Service</td>
<td>Friday-Saturday overnight at camp</td>
<td>Baton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th-6th Grades</td>
<td>“God’s Design for His Daughters” Mother-Daughter Retreat</td>
<td>Orientation for Moms: Aug 18, 6:45-8 pm&lt;br&gt;Retreat Sept 10-11, 2010&lt;br&gt;Blessing: Sept. 12 at 11:00 am Service</td>
<td>Friday-Saturday</td>
<td>Charm Bracelet &amp; From Me to You Journal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Teen Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name of Step</th>
<th>Focus of Step</th>
<th>Blessing Items</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>A Teenage Home Where Everybody Wins (and nobody kills each other)</td>
<td>Sept 16, 2011&lt;br&gt;5:30-8:30 pm&lt;br&gt;Parent – Teen Communications Seminar&lt;br&gt;Mutual honor and respect in conflict&lt;br&gt;Blessing event Sept 18 @ 9:15 am – The Well</td>
<td>“u talk – I listen” cards</td>
<td>“u talk – I listen” cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>A teenage home where sex isn’t a dirty word</td>
<td>November 13,2011&lt;br&gt;5:30-8:30pm&lt;br&gt;Understanding Sex God’s Way and Pursuing Purity Together&lt;br&gt;Blessing Event November 20 @ 9:15 – The Haven</td>
<td>Purity ring</td>
<td>Purity ring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Looking Ahead: Life After High School</td>
<td>April 17, 2012&lt;br&gt;5:30-8:30pm&lt;br&gt;Becoming the you that you were meant to be&lt;br&gt;Planning for college/vocation&lt;br&gt;Blessing event April 24 @ 9:15 – The Haven</td>
<td>Personalized Plaque</td>
<td>Personalized Plaque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Enjoy the Ride—More than Just a Driver’s License</td>
<td>Fall&lt;br&gt;5:30-8:30pm&lt;br&gt;Learning responsibility and gaining more freedom&lt;br&gt;Blessing event: Sunday am in the Worship Center</td>
<td>Key fob</td>
<td>Key fob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Gift</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Keeping God in Relationships</td>
<td>March 11, 2012, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Principles for keeping God in your friendships, dating and future spouse. Blessing event March 18 @ 11 am – Main Worship Center.</td>
<td>Letter to my Future Spouse, Mountain Climber’s Carabiner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Leaving Home with a Faith that Sticks</td>
<td>Late Spring 5:30-8:30pm. Remain steadfast in faith; How to connect to the church and be a part of the body of Christ. Blessing event: May Sunday am in the Worship Center.</td>
<td>Prayer blanket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>