

rites of passage

— GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH —

THE FAMILY
OF GOD




FAMILIES
FOR GOD



GRACE FAMILY MINISTRY

THAT THE GENERATION TO COME MIGHT KNOW — THAT THEY SHOULD PUT THEIR HOPE IN GOD

PSALM 78:1-8



WHAT IS A RITE OF PASSAGE?

Rites of passage have been an important part of almost every society in history, and most societies today still have rites of passage. So, what is a rite of passage? It is a defining moment in which an individual progresses through a defined marker along his or her development into a man or woman. For example, in order for a boy to become a man in northern Mongolia he must climb a cliff, capture a young eagle, spend five months training his eagle to hunt, successfully harvest a mongolian fox, and bring the fox back to his village. When the boy completes this task he is recognized among his village as a man, and is expected to carry himself as such.


So, when does a boy become a man here? When does a girl become a woman? Is it when they turn eighteen? When they graduate college? When they move out? Are there certain marks or traits that a man or woman should possess? What do we do to prepare them? Who's responsibility is it? Rites of passage at Grace Baptist simply provide a framework to disciple our young people toward godliness. They are a clearly defined path that we will walk together for the glory of God as we endeavor to raise up godly men and women.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

The rites of passage framework provides a clear path of discipleship for families in our body. Following is what you can expect from the rite of passage structure:

- Two Grace Family Summits per year in which all members of Grace are equipped to fulfill their role in the development of our young people through guest teachers and breakout sessions.
- Equipping for your particular role through the men's ministry, women's ministry, children's ministry, and student ministry.
- Teaching for children and youth to progress to the next rite of passage.
- Grace Family celebrations. As young people move through rites of passage we will celebrate what God is doing in their life with them.

Our goal at Grace Baptist is to raise up godly men and women, and we believe that the entire family of God has a role to play in this process. God has given children parents as their primary spiritual leaders, but He has also surrounded the physical family unit with a spiritual family of faith to assist parents with this task, and walk with them toward and through key rites of passage.



rites of passages: into the body of christ

This rite of passage is without a doubt the most important. There is no greater moment in life than when a child, adolescent, or adult is called out of darkness into the marvelous light of salvation in Christ! Therefore, everything we do at Grace Baptist in regards to raising up godly men and women is Gospel-driven. Each of the other rites of passage seek to point unbelieving young people to the Gospel, or to grow them in the Gospel. This rite of passage stands outside of the other three and can be navigated anytime in the life of a child once he or she is capable of making a biblical profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

rite of passage: salvation in christ

PURPOSE: For a child (or adult) to place their trust in Christ alone as Lord for salvation and be adopted into the family of God.

TARGET AGE: Any time in which a person can understand the Gospel and thus repent and believe in Christ with genuine faith.

PSALM 78:2-8

*I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.*

*We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.*

*He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,
that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments...*

rites of passages: from childhood to adulthood

How do we raise children in a way that they grow up to be godly men and women?

The Rites of Passages below are based on a continuum for spiritual formation in the life of a child. While the optimal situation is for a child to trust Christ between the first two rites of passage, it is not required. A parent can guide their children through these even if they are not yet a believer, as each one will provide a platform and focus for them to teach the Gospel to their children. These three rites of passage are done in order and are focused on key times of development in the lives of children and adolescents.

RITE OF PASSAGE 1: PARENT-CHILD DEDICATION

PURPOSE: To prepare, equip, and commit parents to be the primary spiritual leaders for their children.

TARGET AGE: Birth-3yrs old

RITE OF PASSAGE 2: PREPARING FOR ADOLESCENCE

PURPOSE: To prepare young people for the emotional, physical, and mental changes that take place in adolescence and to spur them on to live a life of purity for the glory of God.

TARGET AGE: 5th-6th Grade

RITE OF PASSAGE 3: BECOMING A GODLY MAN/GODLY WOMAN

PURPOSE: For young men and women to have defining and clear moment in time in which they are recognized as a man or woman.

TARGET AGE: 11th-12th Grade