

GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

Life on the Edge: The Next Generation's Guide to a Meaningful Future

by Dr. James Dobson

Offers Biblical principles to help young adults face "crucial questions about identity, education, marriage, career, God's will" and more.

Letting Them Go by Dave Veerman

Offers practical advice for the time together before they leave, and a sneak peek that will arise after they have gone.

Release My Grip: Hope for a Parent's Heart as Kids Leave the Nest and Learn to Fly by Kami Gilmour

Offers insight into how this time can be fertile ground for deepening your relationship with Jesus.

Boundless.org

Webzine that provides young adults with a community of mentors and fellow believers throughout the season of transition from high school to starting a family.

GOING FURTHER CHERRY STREET BAPTIST SUPPORT

Faith Path: Launch

This free kit is available for pick-up from the *Faith@Home Center* or download at (<https://mycsbc.com/faith-at-home/>). It includes a special video and other tools to help you launch your young adult as they leave the nest.

CSBC College & Career Ministries

To aid young adults during this crucial transition time, CSBC offers a wide range of ministry and fellowship opportunities designed to equip and encourage college age students in this season of life. For more information, visit the website at www.mycsbc.com.

LAUNCHING YOUNG ADULTS



Faith@Home



LAUNCHING YOUNG ADULTS

After years of saying, "When I grow up, I'm gonna be..." there comes a point in which your children start going through the steps of actually making it happen. Dr. James Dobson calls ages 16 to 26 the "critical decade" as young people transition from childhood to an adult. We've all heard the phrase "failure to launch" describing young men and women who don't make that transition for one reason or another. Unfortunately, more and more parents are inadvertently keeping their children from growing up by protecting them from the risks necessary to adulthood.

How can you be intentional about successfully launching your older children?

STEP ONE

Be a Good Coach

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

STEP TWO

Give Perspective Amid Their Big Questions

Making the transition into adulthood, your son or daughter will face big questions like: What kind of work should I do? Where should I live? What should I do with my life? The most important thing you can do during this season is to direct them back to overarching Biblical principles. The last words of King David to his son, Solomon, (1 Chronicles 28:9) provide a model for parents advising emerging adults: "*And thou, Solomon my son, know now*

the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him, he will cast thee off forever."

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

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it...

(Psalm 127:1)

...whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

(Luke 9:24)

...teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

(Psalm 90:12)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God...

(Matthew 6:33)

STEP THREE

Give a Vision for Marriage and Family

Parents today often go to extremes to help their children get ready for college and the workforce, but don't know exactly what they can do when it comes to preparing them for the more important work of marriage and family. While a small minority will be called to lifelong celibate service, most are called to marriage and family (Genesis 2:18-24). We sometimes overlook how much marriage and family serve as the organizing structure of life and the prime arena for our spiritual development. Even if the culture discourages you from taking an active role in this transition, you have a vital part to play in helping your children "leave and cleave." Actively modeling a Christian family is the foundation, and daily prayer for your child's future spouse and children is an important commitment. It is essential that you provide guidance and oversight to help your children form strong families as a key emphasis of their launch into adulthood.