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» INTRODUCTION

Raising a child is one of the most important and most difficult ministries anyone could take part in. The Lord has blessed you with a child and with that blessing comes the responsibility of being a good steward. At Emmaus, we believe that the responsibility of raising a child lies at the feet of the parents, especially fathers. This is because a child respects no one more than his or her parents; children spend most of their time with their parents, and parents are best suited to use the many real-life, teachable moments that occur in a child's life. While mothers are indispensable and often spend the majority of time with the child, fathers need to play an active role in investing into their children physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The Bible teaches that fathers are to be the head of the house; they are responsible for creating an environment in which a child can effectively learn to fear and adore the Lord. We also believe that one of the reasons God has established the church is to support and encourage parents in their ministry of raising a child. The rite of passage model is one of the ways Emmaus helps and encourages parents in the raising of a child. This booklet is intended to help guide parents in raising a child through the various stages of childhood.

Why Rite of Passage?

The perspective of the secular life cycle is very different from that of the biblical life cycle, and its impact has had a damaging effect on the church. The most notable discrepancy between the two views is found from ages thirteen to twenty-five. The secular life cycle categorizes childhood as being from birth to age fourteen and adolescences from age fifteen until somewhere between twenty-five and thirty years of age. The secular adolescent years are characterized by laziness, immaturity, floating around with no purpose or vision, playing video games, drinking and partying, lack of responsibility, etc. It's rather ironic that we become frustrated with how our teenagers act when their behavior is the result of our expectations; they act like children because society often times treats them like children.

The biblical life cycle is very different than the secular life cycle regarding its view of adolescence. The bible depicts childhood as being from birth to twelve years of age. Individuals from age thirteen to sixteen years old are considered adults or emerging adults. The bible does not teach or support the concept of adolescence. In fact, the age of adolescence is a rather new concept starting with Stanley Hall and his 1904 study entitled "Adolescence". This concept gained further strength as America became less agricultural and more industrial, and there became less of a need for responsible young men and women to help on the farm or local business. If we expected and treated our young men and women like adults, we would likely see a different outcome. Implementing rite of passage would help change their behavior and train them for adult life by formally preparing, honoring, and communicating expectations to our young men and women, treating them like young adults at the appropriate time.

Components of Rite Of Passage

Rite of passage consists of three components: preparation, celebration, and emerging adulthood. The preparation phase consists of communicating expectations of skills or qualities that the child should accomplish or exhibit before the rite of passage celebration takes place. This is the first and most significant component of the rite of passage. While there are many areas or focuses of preparation, we will address only the three most important ones. First, the preparation phase should address of practical skills and tasks that help prepare the child for adult responsibilities. Second, the preparation phase should address theology and service. In order for a child to be considered an adult, they should have a good understanding of Christian theology and know how to live out their faith. Third, this phase should include development of the child's character. Biblical character should be expected and exhibited during the preparation phase.

The second component of the rite of passage is the celebration. This takes place at the culmination of the preparation phase. The celebration is a special public event that honors and recognizes

an individual's transformation from childhood to adulthood. Paul mentions this same sort of transformation in 1 Corinthians 13:11 (ESV) " When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways." The biblical life cycle recognizes only the life phases of child and adult, and it is in this celebration that we honor an individual's transformation from being a child to becoming an adult. We believe that a rite of passage ceremony provides an individual, his or her family, and the community of faith with a defining mark, honoring and recognizing that adulthood has been reached, and the individual is now expected to act and be treated as an adult within the family and community of faith.

The third component is the emerging adulthood phase. In order for the celebration to have any significance and lasting meaning, there must be a change in expectations and responsibilities for the individual. After the celebration, the individual is no longer to be considered a child but must be treated like an adult. We understand that the day after the celebration the individual may not be fully capable of moving out, working forty hours a week, and starting a family, but he or she should be clearly moving toward these goals. During the emerging adult phase, the individual should gain more freedom and assume responsibility mirroring that of a fully independent adult.

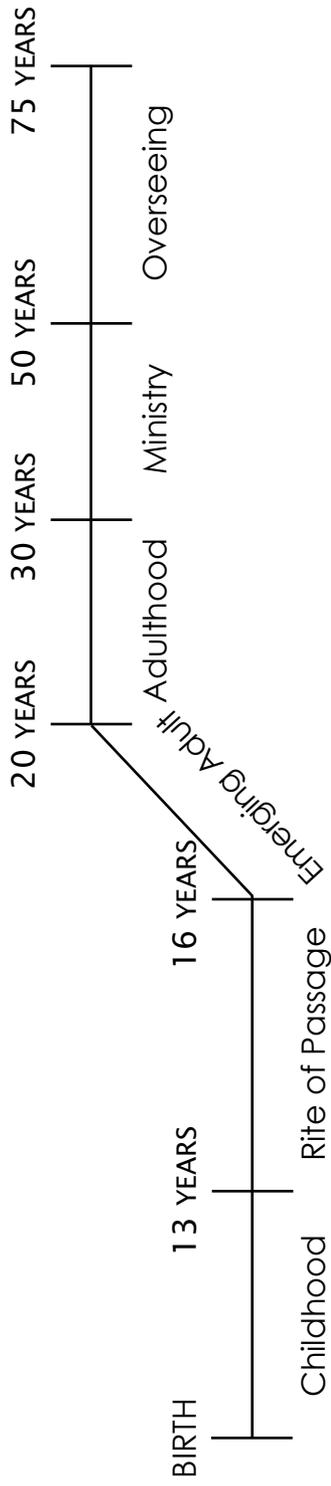
How to use this book

This book is divided into four sections: ages 0-5, 6-12, 13-16, and 17-18 years. Within each of the sections, space is provided for parents to write down objectives they would like their child to learn within the given age range. This book is intended to be viewed as a fluid document to which parents can add and subtract as needed and check off things as they are completed. In addition, for each section there is a list of useful resources pertaining to the various age groups as well as suggestions of age-appropriate objectives to consider.

Before you begin to develop target objectives for the specific age group of your child, I would encourage you to take some time and think about the end result you hope to achieve. What are the

various characteristics, attributes, traits, skills, etc. you want your child to possess by the time they become an adult? Once you have the end in sight, you can effectively work backward and develop age-appropriate objectives that will help accomplish the overall goal of raising a child who is ready for adulthood. To help you develop a list of characteristics and attributes of a Christian adult, the pastors, leaders, and experienced parents of Emmaus developed a list for you to consider. This is by no means an exhaustive list of child raising objectives, nor is it meant to be a list that is copied word for word. This list has been compiled by leaders and experienced parents of Emmaus Christian Fellowship based on the request that they provide objectives for raising children that they either used with their own child or, with hindsight, would teach their children, if they had the opportunity to go back in time.

>> BIBLICAL LIFE CYCLE MODEL



» SECULAR LIFE CYCLE MODEL



» PARENT COMMISSIONING

Parent commissioning at Emmaus Christian Fellowship is a public declaration and commitment to raising a child in the “training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 4:6). There are two requirements for parent commissioning at Emmaus. First, the parent(s) must have a personal faith in Jesus Christ. Second, the parent(s) must be members of Emmaus Christian Fellowship. In addition to the requirements for commissioning, ECF strongly suggests that you covenant with us in using the rite of passage model to raise your child in the Lord within our community (See rite of passage article). The rite of passage model provides a structure and philosophy that is beneficial to parenthood while maintaining the freedom, creativity, and uniqueness of each family and child.

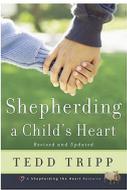
We encourage parents to participate in two ceremonies. First, and the most common ceremony, is a public dedication within a normal church service. It is during this ceremony that the parents publicly proclaim to the entire congregation that they are committing to raising their child in the Lord. This ceremony is valuable in that it fosters community support and encouragement from the whole church body into the life of individual families. Second, we encourage a private dedication to be conducted within the home. Melissa and I did this with Carson. We invited our friends and family over for a BBQ and spent a few minutes reading scripture followed by a time of

prayer as a way to proclaim how we will raise Carson within our home. This ceremony can be as simple or elaborate as you wish to make it. Ours was rather short and simple, but it was an event we will never forget.

There are a couple benefits to a private dedication. First, a home celebration offers a more intimate atmosphere than a public dedication. Second, the people you invite are going to be the people you are closest to, those who will be your immediate support and will most directly hold you accountable to your commitment. Third, a home dedication, in addition to a public dedication, aligns with, supports, and emphasizes the biblical idea that the primary place for instruction and raising a child is within the home.

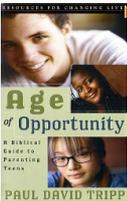
Clearly, we at Emmaus see the value of holding both a public and private parent commissioning. If you are interested in the public parent commission or would like help in creating a home ceremony, please contact the Director of Pre-Adult Discipleship or one of the pastors.

In addition to the support from the congregation and leaders of Emmaus Christian Fellowship, we believe that there are many great resources published by godly men and women that could be of great value and support to parents in raising a child. Below is a list of recommended publications with insightful excerpts about each book. While Emmaus may or may not completely agree with everything written in these books, we do believe that overall they provide great perspective and biblical truths regarding the process of raising a child in the Lord.



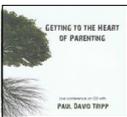
Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

"With the plethora of material on parenting and the family, it is inspiring -and distressing- to see how few books are genuinely biblical. Here is a refreshing exception. Tedd Tripp offers solid, trustworthy, biblical help for parents. If you are looking for the right perspective, and practical help, you won't find a more excellent guide." -Pastor John MacArthur



Age of Opportunity by Paul Tripp

"Paul Tripp uncovers the heart issues affecting parents and their teenagers during the often chaotic adolescent years. With wit, wisdom, humility, and compassion, he shows parents how to seize the countless opportunities to deepen communication, learn, and grow with their teenagers."



Getting To The Heart of Parenting by Paul Tripp

"Parenting is more than using your power to get children to behave in certain ways. Parenting is all about the exposure and change of the child's heart. When the heart of a child changes, the behavioral change that is needed will last.

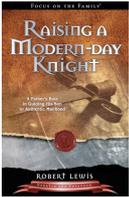
Learn how to be an instrument of heart-changing grace in the little moments of the life that God will give you with your children, whether they are toddlers or teens."



Rite of Passage Parenting by Walker Moore

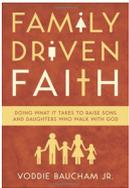
"Today's young people are missing a natural, healthy element seen in cultures across the world: rite of passage, a clearly defined line that distinguishes childhood from adulthood. Family expert, youth culture specialist, and (perhaps, most important of all) dad, Walker Moore believes

a rite of passage is part of the "ancient paths" (Jer. 6:16) instilled deep within us by our Creator. In this book, Walker uses humor, biblical wisdom, and more than thirty years of experience with thousands of families to teach parents how to handle the cultural shift. Part of Dr. Moore's Ancient Path Series, Rite of Passage Parenting equips parents to raise, not children but, capable, responsible, self-reliant adults."



Raising a Modern-Day Knight by Robert Lewis

"What does it mean to be a man? Moreover, how does a father instill these qualities in his son? By Raising a Modern-Day Knight. Beginning with a biblical perspective of manhood, author-pastor Robert Lewis shares a unique approach to shaping a boy into a man by equipping him with three essential elements: a vision, a code of conduct, and a cause (Christianity) in which to invest his life. Complete with ceremony ideas to celebrate accomplishments and ingrain them in his mind, this softcover is as insightful as it is practical in raising a boy to be a chivalrous, godly man."



Family Driven Faith by Voddie Baucham Jr.

"More teens are turning away from the faith than ever before: it is estimated that 75 to 88 percent of Christian teens walk away from Christianity by the end of their freshman year of college. Something must be done.

Family Driven Faith equips Christian parents with the tools they need to raise children biblically in a post-Christian, anti-family society. Voddie Baucham, who with his wife has overcome a multi-generational legacy of broken and dysfunctional homes, shows that God has not left us alone in raising godly children.

This bold book is an urgent call to parents—and the church—to return to biblical discipleship in and through the home. This paperback edition includes a new preface and a study guide to facilitate interaction in small-group settings and to help parents put principles into practice."

» SUGGESTIONS

Before you develop and establish specific objectives for your child to grow in and learn, it is important to first think about your desired end result. You need to think broadly and determine what traits, characteristics, skills, abilities, etc., you want your child to possess upon entering adulthood. Once you have the end in sight, you will be able to work backward to establish objectives and experiences that will help meet your goals. The following pages contain a list of objectives that has been compiled from the insight of leaders and experienced parents of Emmaus Christian Fellowship. These are examples of objectives of things they either did with their own children or, with hindsight, would now teach them, if they had the opportunity to go back in time. This list is by no means exhaustive and is not intended to be directly copied. The purpose of the list is to help parents think through and develop objectives that would be helpful in raising their child in the Lord.

Theology

- Catechism - Have completed the entire catechism and be prepared to answer the questions.
- Explain major doctrines and themes (catechism as a resource)
- Salvation, forgiveness, sin (man's depravity), covenants (covenants of grace, covenants of works), the Trinity, baptism, God's sovereignty, evil, the church, heart, God's mission from Genesis to Revelation, stewardship, love.
- Theology of right and wrong - Why do we obey?
- Learn the importance of storing up treasure in heaven and not on earth.
- Scripture memory - Using verses from the catechism and other sources as needed.
- Read the whole Bible - Reading the Bible as a continual story provides a "birds-eye view" of scripture as a whole and helps to identify a common thread of God's plan with mankind.

- Learn to study the individual parts of scripture – words mean something, sentences, paragraphs, broad context.
- Sexuality - Man and woman, understand God's intended purpose for pleasure and reproduction.
- Understand how the Bible is compiled - Order of the books (Genesis to Revelation), date each book was written (the books are not chronologically ordered), biography of the authors (understand who wrote each book), understand inspiration (all scripture is "God-breathed"), canonizing the scriptures (understand what criteria was used).

Actions toward God and Others

- Learn to be a person who knows what it means to love God and neighbor, and strive to do so.
- Learn to be a person who serves the widows and orphans (needy).
- Learn to be a person who serves the church.
- Learn to be a person who is faithful to his or her church.
- Learn to be a person who obeys the Word of God.
- Learn to be a person who has a personal devotion time with God - scripture reading, fasting, praying, reflection and meditation.

Character

- Understand and display loyalty (Hos 6:6).
- Learn what servant leadership is (Matt 20:26-27).
- Learn to be a person who is kind (Proverbs 19:22).
- Learn to be a person who is humble in all they do (Phil 2:3).
- Learn to be a person of purity (1 Tim 4:12).
- Learn to be a person who is honest (Eph 4:25).

- Learn to be a person who is self-disciplined (1 Tim 4:7-8).
- Learn to be a person who values excellence (1 Cor 9:24).
- Learn to be a person of integrity (Proverbs 10:9).
- Learn to be a person who understands and practices perseverance (Gal 6:9).
- Learn to be a person who is trustworthy.
- Learn to be a person who is forgiving in all situations.
- Learn to be a person who knows how to seek forgiveness and reconcile with those wronged.
- Learn to be a person who understands and displays true repentance.
- Learn to pray for others and treat them with kindness, respect, and compassion.
- Learn to be a person who understands they are not perfect and can learn from their mistakes.
- Learn to be a person who is generous in all areas of life.
- Learn to be a person who consistently uses good judgment.
- Learn to be a person who values wisdom and understands how to gain it.
- Learn to simultaneously be humble, courageous and confident.
- Learn to confront evil, pursue justice, and love mercy (Matt 20:26-27).
- Memorize and develop on the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
- Learn to be self-motivated with school, work/chores, spiritual disciplines:

- Understand the positives of being self-motivated: How does it look? What are the results?
- Understand the consequences of not being self-motivated and how it looks.
- Learn to be a person of convictions.
- Learn to honor authority and live responsibly.
- Learn to work diligently to someday provide for the needs of a family:
 - Learn how to set goals for self: spiritual, educational, family, etc.
- Learn that an occupation is good and necessary, but not the ultimate goal in life.
- Learn how to relate to the opposite sex and understand the differences.
- Learn how to practice proper etiquette and respect of the opposite sex.
- Young men: Learn to be romantic and chivalrous.
- Young woman learn to discern (use wisdom) character in men, to look for qualities in a man that you are willing to submit to.
- Learn how to do all of these things in God's strength.

Practical

- Learn how to engage in adult conversations - Asking questions, appropriate body communication, looking the person in the eye, etc.
- Learn how to be responsible with personal finances - Create and maintain a budget, bills, loans, taxes, credit cards, simple and compound interest, etc.
- Learn how to take care of and maintains an automobile or other machinery – Change engine oil, change tire, change

wiper blades, jump a battery, pump gas, routine maintenance, etc .

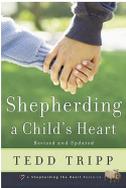
- Learn how to address an envelope, letter, email, etc.
- Learn how to read a map, Thomas Guide, compass, etc.
- Develop a sense of direction (north, south, east, west).
- Learn how to clean a fish and/or deer.
- Learn how to drive a stick shift.
- Learn basic firearms safety.
- Learn how to shut off house gas at the meter to a house and water heater.
- Learn how shut off the water at the house, at the meter and at the valves next to the house.
- Learn how to change the batteries in a smoke detector.
- Learn how to light a pilot in a gas stove.
- Learn how to back up a trailer.
- Learn the difference between metric and standard wrenches.
- Learn how to load soap in dishwasher and turn it on.
- Learn how to do laundry and configure the different settings, etc.
- Learn how to use a fire extinguisher and put out a grease fire in the kitchen.
- Learn how to iron shirts and pants.
- Learn how to sew on a button and make a hem.
- Learn how to make a salad or simple meal such as soup or spaghetti.
- Learn how to change a baby's diaper and/or clothes, how to bathe a baby, how to administer medicines to a baby, and how to take a baby's temperature.

- Learn how to fix a bottle and feed it to a baby.
- Learn how to make a bed.
- Learn how to vacuum a room.
- Learn how to wash dishes.
- Learn how to clean a bathroom.
- Learn to be a person who has talents, skills, hobbies, and how to pursue them.

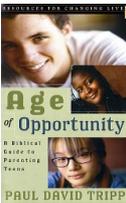
AGES 0-5: OBJECTIVE & RESOURCE IDEAS

Below are resources and objective ideas for this age group. The objective ideas are intended to be broad and more categorical to help you brainstorm and develop specific objectives for your child. This list is by no means exhaustive but rather a sample of what might be applicable for you and your child.

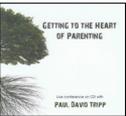
Resources Specific to Age



Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp
(Ch 14-15): Infancy to Childhood



Age of Opportunity by Paul Tripp
(Ch 1-5): Understanding a Biblical Family
(Ch 6-11): Setting Godly Goals



Getting To The Heart of Parenting by Paul Tripp
(Live Conference CD):
Session 1 & 2: *What Is a Family?*
Session 3 & 4: *Getting to the Heart of Behavior*
Session 5 & 6: *Ages 0 - 5*

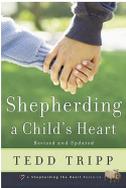
Objectives

- Primary relational skills
- Obeying authority
- Understanding of God
- Bible themes and stories
- Prayer

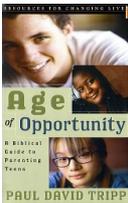
» AGES 6-12: OBJECTIVE & RESOURCE IDEAS

Below are resources and objective ideas for this age group. The objective ideas are intended to be broad and more categorical to help you brainstorm and develop specific objectives for your child. This list is by no means exhaustive but rather a sample of what might be applicable for you and your child.

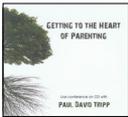
Resources Specific to Age



Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp
(Ch 16-17): Childhood



Age of Opportunity by Paul Tripp
(Ch 6-11): Setting Godly Goals



Getting To The Heart of Parenting by Paul Tripp
(Live Conference CD):
Session 7 & 8: Ages 6-12
Session 3 & 4: *Getting to the Heart of Behavior*

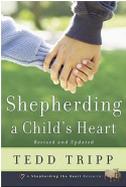
Objectives

- Character building
- Catechism and Bible study
- Scripture memory and personal devotion
- Character- Christian living
- Building identity in Christ
- Personal responsibilities

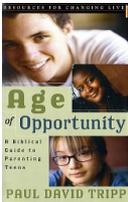
» AGES 13-16: OBJECTIVE & RESOURCE IDEAS

Below are resources and objective ideas for this age group. The objective ideas are intended to be broad and more categorical to help you brainstorm and develop specific objectives for your child. This list is by no means exhaustive but rather a sample of what might be applicable for you and your child.

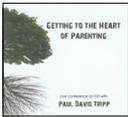
Resources Specific to Age



Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp
(Ch 18-19): Teenagers



Age of Opportunity by Paul Tripp
(Ch 12-13): Practical Strategies for Parenting Teens



Getting To The Heart of Parenting by Paul Tripp
(Live Conference CD):
Session 9 & 10: Ages 13-?
Session 3 & 4: *Getting to the Heart of Behavior*

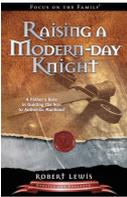
Objectives

- Further develop a Christian worldview
- Interact and develop friendships with adults
- Career exploration
- Identity in the Church
- Mature adult relationships with parents
- Fear of the Lord – read through books of the major and minor prophets
- Systematic study of scripture
- Greater adult responsibilities
- Finances
- Practical life skills

» AGES 17-18: CEREMONY & EMERGING ADULT

This phase of parenting is different than the previous ones in that you will begin to plan and prepare for the rite of passage ceremony to recognize and honor your son or daughter's transformation from childhood to adulthood. In addition, it is important that you clearly define and communicate to your son or daughter how they will be treated as adult within your home.

Resources Specific to Age



Raising a Modern-Day Knight by Robert Lewis
(Ch 7-10): Ideals and Ceremonies

Ceremony Objectives

- Meet with Director of Pre-Adult Discipleship to discuss ceremony ideas
- Articles provided by Emmaus Christian Fellowship
- Previous Rite of Passage ceremonies can be used to help plan

Emerging Adult Objectives

- Define expectations for living with another adult in the house
- Explain how the individual will be treated like an adult
- Finish developing skills for full adulthood
- Equip to marry and run a household
- Display capability of getting and keeping a job

