

Rites of Passage

Key Ideas

- Every kid at every phase is constantly changing. With every phase comes distinctive challenges for you as a parent, but also distinctive opportunities we can leverage to influence their future.
- Three things will help you parent effectively as your child moves through their different phases:
 - 1. Know what's going on in your child's particular phase.**
 - 2. Know your role in your child's particular phase.**
 - 3. Help your child transition to their next phase.**
- Pay attention to your kid. As they get older, ask yourself regularly, "What can I do to rediscover them now?"
- Change your overall approach from cop to coach to consultant as your child gets older.
- There are a few times in life when there are dramatic changes from one phase to the next. These are transition points when you need to be highly intentional, highly present, and highly patient with your child. At these times, participate in rites of passage with them and engage with the church more than ever.

Practical Applications

- Go to parentcue.org and download their app. Put your kid's names and birthdates in to get customized content for their phase.
- If you are taking the wrong approach to your child (cop, coach, consultant), identify one or two practical things that need to change about your approach. Talk with your child about how you are going to be changing things, so they understand why and have a heads up.
- If your child is about to go through a big phase transition, reach out to the church to talk to their current pastor and the pastor from their next ministry about what you can do to partner together.
- If you're not in a small group, step into one now with other parents with kids who are going through similar phases to receive and give help.
- Scan the QR code on the back to access the Phase Life Map that can help you customize your approach to your child based on their current phase of life.

Reflection and Discussion Questions

- What is something that has changed about your son or daughter in the last year?
- What phase is your child(ren) in? What unique things are they experiencing, and what do they uniquely need in that phase?
- What's something about your kid that you wish you knew more about in this phase? What could you do to learn about it?
- What are some specific ways you can "rediscover" who your kid is now?
- What approach are you taking as a parent right now (cop, coach, consultant)? Does it fit your kid's phase? If not, what do you need to do to change your approach?
- What's one thing you can do this week to grow in your current role as a parent?
- If your kid is approaching a major phase transition, what could you do on your end as a parent to actively partner with the church to help your child through this huge moment in their life?

Resources

- *ParentCue.org and Parent Cue App*
- *Don't Miss It* by Reggie Joiner
- *Intentional Parenting* by Doug Fields
- *Raising a Modern Day Knight* by Robert Lewis
- *Parenting Your...Book Series* by Kristen Ivy
- *Sacred Parenting* by Gary Thomas
- *The Collapse of Parenting: How We Hurt Our Kids When We Treat Them Like Grown-Ups* by Leonard Sax
- *Family Discipleship* by Matt Chandler and Adam Griffin
- *Every Age, Every Stage: Teaching God's Truth at Home and the Church* by William Summey

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