

Reinforcing the Vision with Events and Programs

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Begin with the broad brush strokes of God's purposes in all ministry

- To display the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior
1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 4:6
- That His Word would dwell richly in His people by His Spirit
Colossians 3:16-17
- To deepen relationship between Him and His people
Psalms 25:4, 14; Psalm 100: 3; Philippians 3:10
- Make disciples of Christ and work to bring them to maturity in Him
Colossians 1:28-29; Titus 2:3-8

Under these purposes add this encouragement:

Patiently waiting on God for His will in the event yields blessings and benefits for you, your volunteers, and event participants.

- You will see God and be changed—Exodus 24:1-11
- God will receive glory and not you—2 Corinthians 4:7
- God will be with you and the Gospel will go forth —John 15:4; Matthew 28:19-20
- God will establish your plans—Proverbs 16:3; Proverbs 19:21
- God will strengthen you for the task—Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31; Isaiah 41:10

***God's Word is the foundation for your event;
We desire to do all according to His commandments (2 John 1:4-6).
Prayer is the framework. Devote yourselves to prayer.
(John 16:23-24; James 5:16; Acts 6:4; Col. 4:2)***

Discover God's particular purposes and vision for your event

- Be in the Word and in prayer asking God to capture your heart for what He wants to accomplish—that He would give you His vision for the event and the planning process—Matthew 7:7-8; Hebrews 13:20-21
- Commit your way to the Lord and discern His will—Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Proverbs 3:5-7; Romans 12:2; Philippians 1:9-10
- Both the event and the event-planning process should work toward biblical discipleship goals for your families—Colossians 1:28; Ephesians 4:12-16

Questions to ask yourself as you plan an event:

1. How would Jesus do this event?
2. How can I make this event strengthen the parent/child relationship? (e.g., Men's Retreat)
3. How can a single detail reinforce the vision of the event? (e.g., Baccalaureate gift)
4. How can I bring in mentors and "spiritual parents"?
5. What things do I need to add or subtract from the plans to enhance the vision and glorify God? (e.g., Jester at the Father-Daughter Tea)

Hold fast the Word of Truth

As mentioned before, God's Word is the foundation and anchor of your event and will bring clarity to God's particular purposes for it. Let the Word of God define the vision, themes, decisions—impacting all that you do for the event. Jeremiah 15:16; 2 Timothy 3:16

Examples:

- Genesis 1:27; 2:18-24 *Biblical Manhood and Womanhood Seminar*
- 1 Timothy 4:12 *Boyhood to manhood conference / Girlhood to womanhood conference*
- Song of Solomon 2:4, Psalm 23, Psalm 91:4 *Father-Daughter Tea*
- Matthew 5:8 *Purity Conference*
- Matthew 28:19-20 *Young Adult mission event*
- 2 Corinthians 5:20 *Baccalaureate Service & Reception for high school seniors*
- Romans 5:2, 20 *New Year's Eve fellowship & service*

Seek unity of purpose for maximum effectiveness

Survey your church's ministry themes for the year, looking for ways to reinforce your event's vision with them

- Sunday Worship / sermon focus
- Sunday School / Wednesday night
- Adult Ministries / Shepherd Groups
- Men's and Women's Bible Study Groups

Meet with the leadership of your church

- To inform
- To pray together
- To counsel together for maximizing the effect of the event
- For their recommendations of individuals within the church family who are servant-leader "diamonds-in-the-rough"

Who are servant-leader "diamonds-in-the-rough"?

They are Youth (5th-8th Grades) and Young Adults (9th-12th Grades) desiring to mature in Christ.

Design your event to be a vehicle for discipleship. Purpose to raise up the next generation of servant-leaders, shepherds, teachers, and missionaries through your event.

In the process of praying, planning, organizing, and realization of your event, teach the next generation to embrace Christ, find their Spirit-giftedness, and become servants who will lead their generation (Philippians 2:4-10) as members of the body of Christ glorifying the Father through Spirit-filled ministry. (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27, Ephesians 2:10)

Select your potential servant-leaders

After consultation with the young adult leadership of your church, prepare a leadership roster and contact your “diamonds in the rough.”

- Send e-mail invitation to potential young adult servant-leaders/captains.
- Secure date for first prayer and planning meeting.
- Meet for vision-casting, prayer, and selection of ministry.
 - » Meet together and present the event and vision
 - » Break into prayer huddles
 - » Watch for those who take leadership in prayer
 - » After prayer huddles, sign-up for areas of ministry leadership

Finalize Event Leadership Roster

- Lead Coordinator
- Prayer Captain
- Promotion Captain
- Touch Team Captain
- Refreshments Captain
- Registration Captain
- Decorations Captain
- Hospitality Captain
- Facilities Captain

If your pool of volunteers allows, select two Lead Coordinators:

- Lead Coordinator—Shepherd (spiritual encourager)
- Lead Coordinator—Administrator (willing to hold the team to tasks).

Co-Captains for each area of ministry also enhance the vision of discipleship as the captains learn to work and minister together in a Christ-exalting, God-glorifying way.

Captains select their teams

Give your captains guidance in selection of team members:

- Are they followers of Jesus?
- What is their character?
- What gifts do you see in them?
- Have they served in any capacity within the church?

Develop leadership **1 Timothy 4:12**:

- Provide each captain with leadership resources:
 - » “The Marks of a Spiritual Leader” by John Piper <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/articles/the-marks-of-a-spiritual-leader>
 - » The Rebelution Blog by Alex and Brett Harris <http://www.therebelution.com/>
 - » Loving the Lord Ministries Blog by Amy Vest <http://lovingthelord.org/>
- Prepare a schedule of meetings
- Task lists and timelines developed and communicated to team members
- Lines of accountability - (set the believers an example)
- Send thank you cards/show appreciation to all team members

Give tangible reinforcement to biblical themes in your event

- Capture the biblical text in graphics, symbols, and types.

Event Ideas:

• Young Men's Conference (boyhood to manhood event)

Purpose: To impart biblical principles of manhood; the man as protector, provider, leader, and shepherd.

Target Age: 5th-12th grade

Scripture/Theme: 1 Timothy 4:12 / passing a baton, victor's wreath, sword, scroll

Program Details:

- » Sons attend with fathers, grandfathers, uncles, mentors
- » Two large group sessions, followed by 20-30 minute breakout sessions
- » Use the biblical reference [4:12] for conference title
- » Prayer bookmark, T-shirts with text, booklet for study

• Father-Daughter Tea

Purpose: To strengthen biblical manhood and womanhood and the father-daughter relationship: Father—protector, leader, provider; Daughter—teachable, obedient, pure

Target Age: 4th-12th grade

Scripture/Theme: Song of Solomon 2:4 (Red Heart), Psalm 23 (Shepherd), Psalm 91:4 (Wings)

Program Details:

- » King's Court and Banquet table
- » Place mats with Royal Proclamation and biblical text
- » Place cards for assigned seating
- » Kingsport village of King's joyful subjects
- » Memento symbolizing the theme/biblical text at each daughter's place
- » Fathers and daughters presented to the King

• Purity Conference for Girls

Purpose: To encourage young women to surrender completely to Jesus and live a life of purity in heart, mind, body, and soul, for His glory.

Target Age: 5th-12th grade

Scripture/Theme: *Matthew 5:8—Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.* / Some symbols to reinforce the vision: Daisy to signify freshness and purity, Hands offering white flowers, Ring or necklace with a lock and key, heart design with “pure” in center.

Program Details:

- » Daughters attend with mothers, grandmothers, aunts, mentors
- » “Older Sister” speaker to reinforce the teaching
- » Adult women and young women separate for lunch hour: “Older Sister” hostesses mentor younger girls over lunch; Adult/Mother speaker talks with moms/adult women over lunch
- » Prayer room manned by mothers and daughters
- » Prayer bookmark, T-shirts, booklets, pens

• **Baccalaureate Service and Reception**

Purpose: To give thanks to God and glorify Him for His marvelous works in the hearts and lives of high school graduates

Target Age: High school seniors

Scripture/Theme: 2 Corinthians 5:20—sending them out as ambassadors for Christ; Psalm 115:1—Not to us, O Lord, but to Your name give glory...

Program Details:

- » Booklet of Letters to the Graduates from your Pastor(s) and ministry heads
- » Gift of *Checkbook of the Bank of Faith* by Charles Spurgeon
- » Music, songs and talks do not glorify the students' accomplishments but God's work in and through the students.
- » Student speakers (thankful to God for parents)
- » Pastor speaker for commencement

Special Presentation: A Vision for Fathers and Sons

- **Father/Son Quest** presentation by Ben Platter

The Nuts and Bolts of Event Coordinating

24 - 12 months out

6. Meet with pastors/leadership to determine event type, theme verses/biblical focus, etc.
7. Secure dates and facility
8. Secure speaker (your event type may dictate who the speaker is or the speaker may dictate what the event type is)
9. Determine registration cost (add food costs, hospitality bag costs, speaker fee, thank you gifts, facility costs, scholarships, etc. divided by estimated number of attendees)

12 - 8 months out

1. Event leadership chosen and meetings begin
2. Worship leadership chosen
3. Secure pastor to welcome/emcee event
4. Prayer muster begins
5. Promotion begins (church calendars, facebook, blog, web calendars)

8 - 4 months out

1. All print promotional materials completed
2. Registration set up (online and/or paper)
3. Hotel room blocks secured

4 - 2 months out

1. Give bookstore order suggestions
2. Continue promotion adding posters, promotional video
3. Produce bookmark, booklet, workbook, t-shirts, etc., or purchase mementos
4. Determine food items and secure caterer for meals
5. Meetings with lead team continues
6. Hold prayer meetings
7. Monitor registrations
8. Secure speaker transportation, hotel, meals
9. Secure media/tech support

2 months - 2 weeks out

1. Pulpit announcements
2. Registration finalized (online and/or paper)
3. Begin purchasing for hospitality bag items
4. Meet with facility coordinator to share set-up schematic

2 - 1 weeks out

1. Finalize registration and produce roster for check-in
2. Print name tags
3. Print booklets, workbooks, etc.
4. Prepare hospitality bags
5. Get final numbers to caterer
6. Get final numbers to facility set-up
7. Purchase food items not catered
8. Encourage captains/workers
9. Check-up on speaker transportation, hotel, meals

Final Week

1. Order roses for the speaker's wife
2. Produce final event schedule and email it to everyone involved—speaker, pastors, worship team, media/tech, facility, captains, volunteers
3. Set-up
4. Arrange prayer meeting just prior to the event for the speaker and team members.

1 - 3 weeks after

1. Send thank you cards/gifts to volunteers
2. Have an appreciation dinner for your captains and their parents
3. Pay event bills
4. Set up on-line event survey and email it to attendees. (You could also have a written survey filled out by attendees before they leave the event.)

PassAGES Events and Ceremonies

PassAGES events and ceremonies have two primary goals:

1. **To clarify and define God's call to boys and girls to follow in his perfect design and principles of Biblical manhood and Biblical womanhood.**

Our culture today is loud and pervasive in its temptations for men to be passive and women to take control. Confusion of the Biblical roles of men and women is the end goal. Many have succumbed to these temptations. But God has a glorious, clear design to be expressed beautifully among His people and in His church. The daily reinforcement of God's design for men and women lived out before children in the setting of a Christ-exalting home, cannot be underestimated. PassAGES events and ceremonies are structured to come alongside parents to encourage and strengthen principles of Biblical manhood and womanhood for the family. PassAGES help to clarify and define God's design of Biblical manhood and womanhood by giving heavenly realities tangible expression through earthly symbols and representations.

God has given us many such symbols in his Word. His love and care for us is as a shepherd to his sheep (Psalm 23; Isaiah 40:11; John 10:11); His sovereign control over all that He has created is likened as a king to his kingdom (Psalm 29:10; Isaiah 43:15; Matt 22:2); His faithfulness and life-giving as a father to his child (Isaiah 63:16; John 1:12; John 3:5-8); the relationship of Christ and the church as the union of a man and his wife (Ephesians 5:22-33). PassAGES brings clarity in overt ways through the large event and definition in the subtle use of symbols which thread their way throughout the fabric of the event.

2. **To mark a milestone for remembrance of past grace, examination of present heart condition, and course-setting for a future of joyful obedience to Christ's commands.**

God has made us in such a way that we are responsive to visible, tangible reminders of dedication and consecration to Him. In the Old Testament, God commanded his people to erect visible reminders of His presence and care. Some of those reminders were pillars of stone such as Jacob's pillar at Bethel (Genesis 28:18ff), stones for worship (Exodus 24:4; Deut. 27), stones of remembrance, marking a point in time and place where God brought His people to irresistibly consecrate themselves to Him, dedicating themselves to heed His guidance and walk in His ways.

PassAGES events and ceremonies follow this pattern of remembrance. A father and mother's heart resonates with Peter when he says:

Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

(2 Peter 1:15-17)

The church can partner with parents as their children grow to adulthood by planning a sequence of PassAGES milestones. These milestone moments in time will work to remind parents and children of their faithful Heavenly Father who has led them safely to this point, create in them a resolve to persevere, and build in them the unwavering assurance of future grace.

SAMPLE PassAGES Events and Ceremonies:

For Sons:

1. **Father/Son Quest (FSQ)** www.fathersonquest.com
 - a) Three-day wilderness get-away designed for fathers and their sons 12 years of age and older.
 - b) Strengthen spiritual disciplines of Bible reading, prayer, and love for God's design for men.
 - c) Give a clear vision of Biblical manhood—cultivate and explain its key qualities.
 - d) Encourage deepening relationship between father and son, godly fellowship and character-building.
 - e) Fathers are sent instructions several weeks prior to the FSQ for heart preparation in prayer for this special time with their sons.
 - f) All participating fathers meet one week prior to the date of the FSQ for the "Dads' Meeting." At this meeting the fathers get to know one another, pray together, and prepare the blessing they will give their sons.
 - g) Activities such as canoeing, fishing, chopping wood, and building campfires just to name a few, all work toward building masculine confidence in the sons.
 - h) Resource: *From Boyhood to Man: The Marks of Manhood* by R. Albert Mohler, Jr.
2. **Men's Retreat**
 - a) Three-day retreat at a lake camp for men of all ages including sons 13 years and older of attending fathers.
 - b) Purposely not just a fathers and sons retreat in order to give sons the opportunity to see Biblical manhood on display in young single men, young married men, fathers, and grandfathers.
 - c) Prior to the first session opening the retreat, the sons are called upon to stand and are then ceremonially welcomed into the "company of men" by the adult men in attendance.
 - d) The retreat includes breakout sessions for the sons to be mentored by godly men other than their fathers.
 - e) Activities such as clay pigeon shooting, fishing, archery, horseback riding and canoeing are designed to build relationship between father and son, as well as give opportunity for sons to be in the company of other godly men and learn from them.
3. **Small Group Rite of Passage for Sons**
 - a) Fathers of sons form a small group and band together as brothers to impart principles of Biblical manhood to their sons 12-14 years of age.
 - b) Fathers prepare their sons for a rite of passage event by instruction in the Bible together with other resources such as:
Raising a Modern Day Knight by Robert Lewis
Fifty Crucial Questions by John Piper and Wayne Grudem
 - c) The men take the son out for a special meal and return to a private area either in the restaurant or in a home. Each man imparts advice and a blessing specific to the son. The mantle of Biblical manhood and its responsibility before God is imparted to the son. (Usually a pastor or an elder is also involved in this rite of passage meal and blessing.)
 - d) A gift of remembrance is given to the son. The gift can be a Bible with name engraved on it, a sword, a ring, or other such commemorative item.

For Daughters:

1. Father-Daughter Victorian High Tea

- a) Purpose:
 - » to encourage Biblical manhood and womanhood in the lives of fathers and their daughters.
 - » to give opportunity for interaction of fathers and daughters across family lines.
 - » to commemorate a day of consecration.
- b) This is a formal event for fathers and their daughters, ages 10 to 18 years old.
- c) Fathers receive a formal letter of invitation in the mail along with a list of resource books to prepare their daughters for this special day.
 - » Resources: *Beautiful Girlhood* by Karen Andreola
 - » *So Much More* by Anna Sofia Botkin and Elizabeth Botkin
 - » *Lies Young Women Believe* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss and Danah Gresh
- d) Fathers and daughters are invited to join the King and Queen of Kingsport for High Tea.
- e) The church is decorated in Victorian or Renaissance flair. The fictitious town of “Kingsport” welcomes the guests as they exit their cars at the doorway. (Cars are valet parked by volunteers.)
- f) Professional portrait photographs are taken of each father and daughter.
- g) Long-stemmed roses are given to each daughter.
- h) As daughters enter, they are each given a lace penny-pouch containing ten pennies.
- i) The villagers are all dressed in costume. The town of Kingsport has village shops with wares for sale. Nothing costs more than a penny.
- j) There is a beggar in the town covered with sackcloth holding a tin cup with a sign on his neck that says, “Will you give?”
- k) At 11:00 am The Royal Page announces that it is time for the presentation of fathers and daughters to the Royal family. Each pair is ushered in, announced, bow and curtsy to the royal family, and take their place at their assigned table.
- l) Gospel Parable: After all are seated, there is one empty seat next to the King. The beggar limps his way down front to the king’s table and throws off his sackcloth. Beneath his humble garments, he is dressed in royal clothing. The King declares “This is my son, the prince!” The prince says, “Father, the daughters gave copper pennies to me in a tin cup, but they are really precious treasure, because when they gave to the beggar, they gave to me!” The prince then holds up a glass jar filled with gold coins.
- m) Everyone is seated. The Proclamation (Placemat Sample F) is read by the Royal Page.
- n) Program then follows along with the eight courses of the Tea, music, and message to fathers and daughters from the King and a testimony from a daughter.
- o) Examples of theme and memento:
 - i. ***The Lord is My Shepherd***—Fathers are to imitate their Good Shepherd in protecting, providing for, leading their daughters. Daughters are to be pure, submission, obedient to their shepherd father and glorify their Good Shepherd Jesus in so doing. (Psalm 23)
Memento: Silver charm with the words “The Lord is My Shepherd” on a pink ribbon with Bible verse or poem in a small jewelry box at each daughter’s place setting.

- ii. ***My Father Protects Me***—Fathers are to imitate their Heavenly Father in the loving protection of their daughters. Daughters are to stay under their father’s protective umbrella. (Psalm 121)

Memento: Beaded umbrella charm on a pink ribbon with Bible verse or poem in a heart box at each daughter’s place setting.

Biblical womanhood is strengthened in the daughter through the father’s leadership and his joyful acknowledgement of her femininity in escorting her to the Tea.

Gospel truths are more deeply understood through symbols and types of our heavenly Father and of Christ in the King of Kingsport and his Son the Prince, the heavenly court and wedding feast and the King of Kingsport’s court and feast.

2. **Small Group Mentoring for Daughters**

- a) Daughters and mothers meet in small groups for Titus 2 mentoring such as learning to sew, homemaking skills, Bible study, or book study.

PassAGES for the Graduate

1. **Baccalaureate Service and Reception**

The Baccalaureate Service and Reception is a rite of passage event for the high school graduate. Parents are encouraged to make this a time of blessing their sons and daughters. This event is a worship service where God is honored and thanked for his work in the hearts and lives of the graduates. It is designed to communicate the omnipresence and faithfulness of God to the graduate as they move to their next stage of life. It also reminds the graduate of the covenant support of the church to bring them to maturity in Christ. Family and friends of the graduate are encouraged to attend.

Information is collected from the graduates prior to the Baccalaureate to be included in a book of remembrance. The information includes the graduate’s favorite hymn, most precious attribute of God, life Bible verse.

The Service:

- a) After all guests are seated, students, speakers, and worship leaders file into the sanctuary and sit in front together. (Suggested processional “Be Thou My Vision”)
- b) The keynote speaker gives the charge to the graduates.
- c) Two graduates (a boy and a girl) speak and give testimony of their parents influence for Christ in their lives.
- d) Student-led worship team leads three worship songs to open and one at the closing.
- e) Graduates are charged to fully accept their Biblical charge of ambassadors for Christ.
- f) Graduates come up front and give their names and future plans. They receive a gift of the Charles Spurgeon devotional *Checkbook of the Bank of Faith* and the book of remembrance which also includes letters of instruction and blessing from their pastors and mentors.
- g) **Note:** If you have a smaller church and time will allow, you are encouraged to invite the parents to join their graduate on the platform and have the graduate introduce them, share their life verse as well as their future plans.
- h) Reception of refreshments and display tables for graduates follow the service.