

Milestone Six: Preparing for High School Graduation

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Ministry Department: Student Ministry

Campus Event: Preparing for Senior Year class

Target Audience: 11th Grade Parents

Class Description: This class, taught in April, allows parents to encourage one another and help each other as they prepare to have a teen start senior year.

Campus Event: Senior Summit

Target Audience: 12th Grade Parents

Event Description: "Senior Summit" is a weekend event for seniors and their families the following April. "Senior Summit" includes a Friday night dinner, during which time parents speak a blessing over their student, and a Sunday church-wide high school graduation celebration.

Introduction

Introduce yourself and pray for the class.

Welcome to Preparing for Senior Year

Here is an overview of what today will look like:

- Welcome and Introduction
- Plan Overview
 - Ultimately, we're leading up to Senior Summit
 - What your kids are learning right now...

Disclaimer: I always work under the philosophy that I'm not the expert when it comes to teenage parenting experience. I feel equipped to share best practices and a few reminders and suggestions, but the experts are sitting right next to you. All I know: PARENTING IS HARD!

*(Read pages 24-25 in *Parenting*) Don't stop parenting!

Challenges

To Discuss at your Tables:

What would you say are your biggest challenges right now with your soon-to-be senior in high school?

Arrows

Read all of Psalm 127

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth."

- Remember the day you dropped your kids off at kindergarten that first day?
- Unless the Lord watches over our kids...we'll be restless, anxious and worrisome.
- Like arrows, our kids are meant to be sent out. Why an arrow? An arrow is used to pierce. To attack the enemy. We are to be training our kids to be arrows in the hands of Jesus for His Kingdom. To be dangerous. (Prepare Them vs. Protect Them)

Fears

To Discuss at your Tables:

What are your biggest fears, if any, going into senior year? What, if anything, brings you the most excitement?

Important Reminders

- 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Follow My Example..."
 - Provide opportunities for them to "practice adulting"
 - Question Based Examples
 - The "First 10 Seconds" Principle
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Communication

To Discuss at your Tables:

How would you describe "communication" right now with your soon-to-be senior?

Goal Areas / Domains

Make this fun!

Questions for your Senior

Identity

Your son or daughter's foundation in life is built on his or her identity, perceived or otherwise. Speaking truth into their lives and reinforcing their identity in Christ can create a solid foundation to endure the pressures and storms of life. (Matthew 3 & 4)

- Made in His Image...Ephesians 4:20-24
- Created with Purpose...Jeremiah 29:11
- Known and Loved...Psalm 139:1-18
- Loved to Death...John 3:16
- Called to a Full Life...John 10:10

- Forgiven...Romans 6:17-18, Romans 8:1-2

"I'm for you. I'm on your team. I want to help." (They may be "disconnecting.")

Teenagers will search for their identity often throughout the middle school and high school years. It is crucial to help them understand "whose they are." (Logan, whose are you?) They are loved as a child of God, and they are loved as your child. IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO ENFORCE THEIR IDENTITY IN CHRIST. KEEP IMPRINTING THIS ON THEIR HEARTS!

To Discuss at your Tables:

- What are some best practices you've found for staying connected to your son/daughter?
 - How do you lead spiritually at home? Family devo? Prayer times? Etc.
 - What are the "remember-forevers" you want your child to take with them?
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This Next Year

- Review identity verses with your kids and seek to bless them daily. Model and share your testimony!
 - Sit down and set up some senior-year goals WITH them.
 - Continue discussions on dating, purity standards, healthy friendships, life skills, etc.
 - Read one of our suggested resources.
 - Start a "senior year" journal to give to them as a graduation gift next year.
 - Pray. Pray. Pray! (Psalm 127)
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Senior Summit

Give them the arrow heads!