



7th GRADE VIDEO SCRIPTS

7TH GRADE: THE BLESSING CEREMONY

Speaker:

For many families, the thirteenth birthday involves a celebration and a few joking remarks about becoming a teenager, and that's about it. What a wasted opportunity. Instead, this occasion can be used to educate and inspire your new teenager, your family, and your friends to make the most of the years ahead. It's a wonderful opportunity to say to your teenager, "I'm no longer going to view you as a child; I'm no longer going to treat you like a child. It's now time to begin a new part of our relationship. This is a time where we give you permission and support you in operating like a young adult." This is an important thing to communicate, and it shouldn't be done with a quick conversation; it should be done through a significant Family Experience called "The Blessing Ceremony."

This is going to be accomplished through a series of discussions and devotionals that will lead to a ceremony that proclaims to you and your child that they are now a young adult. We will give you Kick-starters that will 1. Help you to know how to approach this discussion with your teenager 2. What the biblical understanding of blessing is 3. Give you ideas for other "Blessing" experiences with your teen.

Turning 13 is a big deal. Different cultures

celebrate it in different ways, but it is always important. In tribal cultures, they send 13-year-old boys into the jungle with no provisions to survive for three days, and when they come back, the whole tribe gathers around them and celebrates that this is no longer a child but a young man. The Jewish culture does something very similar with the bar mitzvah and the bat-mitzvah. Now, they don't send anyone out into the jungle, but they do gather families and have a huge celebration centered on their faith. You see, 13 is important because it signifies the end of childhood and the beginning of young adulthood. How are you going to mark that for your teenager? How are you going to help your 13-year-old know that this is such a big deal in their life?

The Blessing Ceremony will help you do just that. First we encourage you to choose a date and location for the ceremony. The best time to do this Family Experience is sometime around the student's 13th birthday. You can offer them options to choose from based on their personalities. Some may wish a more personal experience by just having a written note of blessing from you. Another option is to have a smaller family and friends experience, and still there are those who may wish to have a large party. We have included a Blessing worksheet to help prepare you, and we also recommend you use a symbol of some sort that would



solidify this experience. This symbol will remind your teenager every time they see it, that they are important, they are on a journey, and you are their champion. In the Parent Guide, we will give you instruction on when and how to give this blessing as well as other tips and encouragement in planning this event.

Thirteen is a significant time with purpose and joy. Let's use this opportunity to give them a foundation to stand on for the rest of their high school journey.