



12th GRADE VIDEO SCRIPTS

12TH GRADE: MANHOOD/WOMANHOOD CEREMONY

A few years ago, I was asked to participate with a dad who wanted to hold a special evening of blessing for his 18-year-old son. He asked a few of his men who have been influential in his son's life to attend, and after each of these men spent some time sharing, it was the father's turn. It was amazing to watch. He began by asking his son to kneel down on the ground in front of him. Then, he went over to the closet. He brought out this huge Braveheart sword that he had bought for this evening. And then he laid this sword down on the son's shoulder, and he said something to him that I will never forget. He said, "Son, I know many 30- and 40-year-old men who act like children because no one ever told them that they were men. So tonight, on your 18th birthday, based on the authority of God's Word that He has given me, I say to you that you knelt down as a boy; but you will rise as a man."

You know what? That was one of the most powerful parenting moments I have ever witnessed. Watching the look on that man's face--when he stood, he stood with pride. You see, he was a

man because his dad said he was. The Blessing in that moment was unleashed. When you unleash your Blessing as a parent, you're unleashing your teenager to change the world. Who wouldn't want to give that kind of Blessing to their son or daughter?

We want to help you exercise your biblical au-

thority to proclaim to your son or daughter that he or she is now an adult in this Family Experience we call "Manhood/Womanhood Ceremony." We will begin by giving you Kick-starters that will 1. Encourage you as a parent in starting this conversation 2. Give you God's purpose and design

for identity 3. Give you ideas for releasing a person of true identity in Christ. When you bless your teenager during this time, you're focusing less on their performance and more on their identity.

In this Family Experience, we will have you begin by talking with your teenager about what they want this experience to look like. They will probably have an opinion on whether it is a small, intimate gathering or a huge party. Ask them to list for you those who have been influential in their life. The answer to that question

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will serve as the guest list for the ceremony. When you invite attendees to be a part of the occasion, we recommend that you ask them to prepare a special word of encouragement that defines and affirms what it looks like to be a man or woman who finds their identity in Christ. Write down ahead of time the word you want to share with them. Make sure you state to them they are no longer a child; they are no longer an adolescent; they have now reached adulthood. Choose a gift for this ceremony that will be a symbol of the night you declared them to be an adult. We have provided you with a Parent Guide to help you plan this Ceremony and give you suggestions for scriptures to use as well.

One of the great privileges given by God to a parent is the ability to unleash their teenager into adulthood. If you are wondering whether or not it's a big deal, just talk to an adult who never received their parents' Blessing. It's a huge deal. It's a chance for you to launch your teenager into the world of understanding who God made them to be. This will be a foundation of truth that will carry them for a lifetime.