

Launching Our Children into a Meaningful and Impactful Future

God used special occasions, ceremonies, and symbols to prepare large groups (like Israel or Jesus' disciples) as well as individuals (like Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Paul) for new and greater levels of responsibility. In this presentation we'll learn how to use special occasions and symbols as "rite of passage" events to launch our sons and daughters into a more deliberate and spiritually influential adulthood.

Tim Kimmel is the founder and Executive Director of Family Matters, whose goal is to see families transformed by God's grace into instruments of reformation and restoration. Tim develops resources for families and churches and conducts conferences throughout the world on the unique challenges facing today's families. He has authored many books, including: *Grace Based Parenting*, *Raising Kids for True Greatness*, *Little House on the Freeway*, *Connecting Church and Home*, and *Grace Filled Marriage*. Tim and his wife Darcy count their role as parents and grandparents as one of their greatest joys. God has blessed them with four children, their children's spouses, and a growing number of grandkids. Tim is a graduate of Bryan College (BA), Dallas Theological Seminary (Th.M.), and Western Seminary (D.Min.).

Darcy Kimmel is the Vice President of Family Matters, which she helped found with her husband, Tim Kimmel, in 1982. Family Matters is a ministry dedicated to "equipping families for every age and stage of life." Darcy has a heart for encouraging and equipping women to maximize their unique callings in life as wives, mothers, and grandmothers. She speaks at conferences with her husband regarding marriage and parenting issues. As a writer, Darcy is co-author of several books on parenting, grandparenting, and family relationships. Darcy is also a regular contributor to the Family Matters' blog and writes a quarterly column of encouragement and advice in Family Matters' publication, *Heart of the Home*. Darcy has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Family Studies from Ottawa University. Darcy loves being a wife and mom more than anything else she does.

Kory Schuknecht is one of the founding board members of Family Matters and has been leading the charge for spiritually strong families for over three decades. He continues to advocate for this powerful message through personal relationships and through the leadership he provides as the Pastor of Family Ministry at Scottsdale Bible Church; a church of more than 7000 congregants in metropolitan Phoenix. There he has served as an elder for much of the past thirty years as well as teaching in the Children's Ministry and Student Ministry. Kory and his wife Gail teamed with Tim and Darcy Kimmel to teach and disciple 30 young couples (for thirteen years) in the grace-based model of relationships. Kory and Gail have four children who bless them with their own expanding families. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business from Arizona State University.

- A. Children feel more deeply loved, more sufficient as people, and more hopeful for the future when their parents are deliberate about having them ready to take on

_____.

B. God used symbols, unique events, ceremonies, and celebrations to move His children from where they were to a greater level of serving and living for Him.

C. Rites of _____ celebrate the benchmarks in their lives that assure them that we are walking alongside of them as they navigate the future.

D. Many Rites of Passage include important _____ in their lives, symbolic objects and acknowledgement of a line of demarcation in how children will now be viewed and treated.

*When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. **I Corinthians 13:11***

E. Examples of Rites of Passage: