



The Commissioning Stage

The **Commissioning Stage** supports families with teens entering their junior year of high school through early adulthood. It's a time when adolescents begin taking ownership of their choices and preparing to step into independence. These years can bring both excitement and uncertainty—but they are also rich with opportunity for growth.

In this season, your role shifts from directing to guiding. Encourage your teen to lead, reflect, and take responsibility in meaningful ways. Even when your teen seems distant, your presence, prayer, and patience are forming roots of maturity and faith. Through long term growth activities, like the one in this email, you'll help your teen see how God works through challenges to produce endurance, character, and lasting hope.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

Tips for Caregivers

- Empower your teen to lead by giving him or her opportunities to plan, serve, and make decisions. Remain invested and ready to provide support when your teen might need it.
- Offer consistent encouragement. Focus on your teen’s progress and growth, not perfection.
- Remind your teen that his or her efforts matter—not just in what gets done, but in how it’s approached.
- Encourage your teen to reflect after activities or experiences to build confidence and self-awareness.
- Pray with and for your teen regularly, modeling dependence on God’s wisdom rather than your own control.

Growth Model



Plant

Teens begin to recognize and overcome apathy toward relationships, learning, and personal growth.



Root

They start taking ownership of their actions, words, and responsibilities with guidance from trusted mentors.



Growth

They recognize how their choices and leadership might impact others, growing in maturity and Christlike character.



Fruit

They step forward in confidence, showing initiative and a willingness to accept the responsibility to lead, guiding others in love as Christ did.

Activity: Taking Responsibility

STEP 1 (The Why)

Taking responsibility helps young adults see how their actions impact others and invites them to lead with purpose. This activity provides a structured way for your teen to practice leadership, communication, and follow-through—all while learning to depend on God for wisdom and strength. Planning an event challenges your teen to think ahead, make decisions, and persevere through obstacles. Your role is to encourage and guide your teen without taking over, allowing him or her to discover confidence and capability through experience.

STEP 2 (Activity Directions)

Event Planning Steps

- 1 Purpose (1 Month Before)**
Decide on the type of event, its purpose, and who it's for. Work together to pick a date, time, location, and budget. This could be as simple as a birthday party or a special family dinner.
- 2 Plan (2–3 Weeks Before)**
Create a detailed action plan together—supplies, set-up, roles, and clean-up assignments.
- 3 Proposal (2 Weeks Before)**
Have your teen share his or her idea clearly with others, personally inviting attendees or helpers and explaining why the event matters.
- 4 Pray (1 Week Before)**
Pray for attendees, smooth logistics, and for your teen's confidence as he or she steps into leadership.
- 5 Partner (Day Of)**
Be present for support but let your teen lead. Afterward, celebrate your teen's effort and talk through what he or she learned.

Reflection Questions

- What went well?
- What was hard?
- What did you learn about yourself and others?

Encouragement

Taking responsibility transforms uncertainty into confidence and apathy into action. When you walk alongside your teen—encouraging, guiding, and celebrating his or her growth—you help build a generation ready to serve others with purpose and faith. Every event your teen plans, every decision he or she makes, and every challenge he or she overcomes becomes part of his or her story of maturity in Christ.