

The Power of Story

FRAMING UP OUR PURPOSE

There is power in the art of story-telling. Did you know that daydreaming is the natural state of the human mind? $\frac{1}{3}$ of our days are spent daydreaming or fantasizing, but when we begin to listen to someone tell a story, distractions begin to fade. Tests show that the brain reacts to stories as if they were actual stimulus. People begin to develop an actual attachment to the characters. A story changes thinking and behavior in ways that facts cannot. We can talk about Jesus all day, but until people develop an attachment to the experience we have had with Jesus, our words can mean little to nothing. I don't know if you've noticed, but some of Jesus' most powerful truths were communicated through parables. Jesus spent most of his time telling stories. And there is intentionality in that. Jesus talked to people about what mattered to them. He used images that were relatable to the people he spent time with, and as a result, those people developed a connection with him.

Stories have the same impacts on people today. When we share our stories with one another, we provide a means of connection. Whether or not the person your sharing with has a similar story to yours, that person can make connections that enable them to understand you better. Our stories and the things we have experienced shape who we are, how we react to and treat one another and how we see and approach life and God.

This year, we are providing you with the opportunity to develop this unique connection with your student. All too often, parents don't take advantage of the opportunity they have to pour into their children through the sharing of their stories. This can often seem scary or intimidating, but imagine what the vulnerability of sharing your faith journey with your student can do for that particular relationship! So, this year, we are providing your family with three different rites of passage activities that will enable you to share your stories with one another and in turn, encourage your student to live a story that is worth telling others about! Provided in your parent's guide are three rites of passage activities with step-by-step instructions for you and your child to follow.

Parents...job well done! You have made it to the end rights of passage experience. We hope you continue to write a great parenting story. We believe that your investment in your child over these years has laid a solid foundation for future opportunities to continue to speak into their life. Thank you for taking the time to participate in the rights of passage of experience!