





## ***Parent Guide for 11th Grade: Family Tree***

### **Speaker:**

As parents, your influence will last three or four generations. This means you are a spiritual patriarch or matriarch all the way down to your great-great-grandchildren. So what you do today as a parent matters. You have a responsibility to your teenagers to help them understand where they come from.

This rite of passage will help you plan a Family Tree event with your student.

The first step to help you and your student plan this event is to download the Family Interview Questions resource and assign your 11th grader the task of contacting and interviewing at least 3 family members outside of your immediate family. They can document the answers they receive by writing them down, recording them with a voice recorder, or even videotaping their conversation.

They will present their findings at a family event the two of you will plan together. The next step is to plan the Family Tree event. This can be a family dinner, a trip to visit family if they don't live close-by, or a full-blown family reunion. If you have family members that live out of town, consider using videoconference technology or at least let them listen via speakerphone.

You can also invite out-of-town family to write a note that can be read at the event as another way that they can participate. Sometime before the event, sit down with your teenager and let them share with you what they learned in their family member interviews. Help them edit their

interviews so that they can present them in front of other family members at a future event. Some of the things they learned may not be appropriate to share in a group setting. You can discuss these things with

your students as well as other family secrets that they were previously too young to understand. This is not necessarily a fun conversation to have, but it is an important part of learning the history of their family. Work with your teenager to ensure that what they share at the family event is positive and that they avoid sharing embarrassing information. After they share their findings at the family event, you can open the floor to other family members to share. They can share their own memories, encourage your teenager, or simply share their hearts.

***This has the potential to be a powerful moment in the life of your family.***



This has the potential to be a powerful moment in the life of your family. At the conclusion of the family event, present your student with a family heirloom. This can be something significant that was passed down to you, or you can start a new tradition with a gift that has special meaning to your teenager. We have provided you with a guide to planning your Family Tree event that can help guide you through this process. We have also provided a set of devotionals for you and your student that focus on God's design for family and the importance of legacy. You can find other resources, including a document that tells you what is happening developmentally with your student and a downloadable resources area. Help your student determine where they are going by introducing them to where they came from.