

## 11<sup>th</sup> GRADE VIDEO SCRIPTS

### 11h Grade: Family Tree

**Speaker:** I never enjoyed visiting my great grandfather as a teenager. Now, it's not that he was a mean person. He was actually really kind to me. He always sent me birthday cards and whenever I was around, he would light up. But as a teenager, unfortunately, he just seemed boring to me. And then one day when I was a little older, I realized I knew nothing about my great grandfather. So I began to ask him some simple questions. You know what I found out? I found out that he used to be the mayor of the town that he lived in. I found out that he worked for the company that made the atomic bomb. Can you believe that? He spin tales for me that made me buckle over in laughter. I remember when he told me about how he fell in love with his wife and how it hurt him when she died. You know what I discovered that day? The first step to knowing who we are is to discover where we came from. Your student ministry wants to help invite your teenager to their own journey of self-discovery called the "Family Tree" rite of passage.

The Bible talks about our influence going down to the third and fourth generations. The reality is that we are spiritual patriarchs and matriarchs in our families' legacy. That means your influence and the path you're marking out for your teenager will have an effect on your grandchildren, your great-grandchildren and your great-great-grandchildren. So what you do today matters. In this rite of passage, you will lead your teenager to interview key members of your family. You'll ask important and significant questions that's going to reveal to them the story of where they came from. Then, you'll gather the family together for a meal and let your teenager report what they've learned. At this family meal, you might also choose to give them a family heirloom that could be passed down from generation to generation as a symbol of what your family stands for. This is also a time where you might want to let your teenager hear the family secret, or the truth about the past that they might not have been ready to hear before now. The point and the heart of a rite of passage is to invite your teenager to something greater than themselves. The Family tree rite of passage helps them understand that they are a part of a family and a faith that is bigger than them. As they discover that heritage, they might just discover their identity. Enjoy the Family Tree rite of passage.

## **Parent Guide for 11 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 eleventh grader the task of contacting and interviewing at least three 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 are out of town, consider using videoconference technology or at least let them listen via a 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 interview 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, 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 memory and encourage your teenager or share their hearts.

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 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.