



The Commissioning Stage

The **Commissioning Stage** supports families with teens entering their junior year in high school up through early adulthood as they navigate growing independence and life transitions. This season of life can be rocky, but intentional encouragement and spiritual grounding can help adolescents grow in Christlike maturity.

The following activity will guide your teen through Romans 5, helping him or her see how God uses challenges to grow lasting hope. With your support, your teen will begin a simple practice of tracking God's faithfulness—a habit that will shape the way he or she views life experiences.

"Because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Romans 5:3–4

Tips for Caregivers

- Help your teen understand that true hope is built through real-life experiences, perseverance, and trust in God's timing—not instant results.
- Celebrate the effort and endurance of your teen, reminding him or her that growth often happens in the process, not just in the outcome.
- Share personal stories of hope from your own seasons of waiting; your transparency gives your teen courage to trust God's faithfulness.
- Encourage your teen often with the truth: "God is working in you, even in the waiting."

Growth Model



Plant

Teens begin to recognize the need to seek God during difficult moments. They might need to pause to reevaluate their situation in light of God's love and faithfulness.



Root

They make connections concerning how God uses challenges and circumstances to refine their character and strengthen their faith.



Growth

They gain confidence to step forward in faith, trusting God's guidance even when the path ahead isn't clear.



Fruit

They share their story of God's faithfulness to encourage and inspire others.

Activity: Growing in Hope

STEP 1 (The Why)

Hope is more than wishful thinking—it's a deep, steady trust in God's ongoing work, even when the path ahead isn't clear. In Romans 5, Paul reminds us that perseverance and character are what give rise to lasting hope. As your teen faces challenges or uncertainty, this activity helps him or her recognize that God is shaping his or her faith through every experience. By focusing on moments of God's faithfulness, your teen will begin to see how He uses all things to strengthen hope and confidence in Him. Remembering God's past faithfulness builds resolve to boldly face future challenges, knowing He has a purpose for every trial and uncertainty we face.

STEP 2 (Activity Directions)

- 1 **Choose a container** such as a jar, box, or basket that your family can easily access. Keep a small notebook or journal in or near the container.
- 2 **Add small items** that represent God's answered prayers or moments of gratitude to the container. These can be buttons, seeds, or other items that remind you and your teen of God's faithfulness.
- 3 **Capture the memory** in your notebook or journal by writing down the date and a short note about how you saw God work in that moment.
- 4 **Revisit regularly** when hope feels far away or during a scheduled time together, such as family devotion time, by opening the container and reflecting on those past moments, remembering how God has been faithful.

Over time, this becomes your family's faith account—a collection of tangible reminders that testify that "God showed up here."

Encouragement

Don't be discouraged by your teen's doubts or struggles—these are sacred opportunities for endurance and hope to grow. Stay present in the process, ask thoughtful questions, and celebrate small steps forward. Remind your teen often that hope doesn't come from perfection but from God's faithful presence.

"Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

— Romans 5:5