



## Squire Ceremony Preparation Information

The Squire Ceremony represents a natural but significant shift for the boy toward a young man. The emphasis in this ceremony is moving away from knowledge about God, about manhood, about maturity, toward the son actually working out his faith in God, embodying the principles of manhood, and putting away childish things in preparation for adulthood.

In medieval days, the move from a page to a squire was significant for a couple of reasons. Pages were learning the ways of day to day life, protected from battle, while watching the knights from afar. Squires however, were armor bearers for the knights, going into battle, and applying knowledge previously gained to real life situations. The expectation of squire was to apply traits like fearlessness, courage, and resilience in battle, without having to have his hand held. He was also expected to remain gentle and chivalrous back in the village amongst the young boys and women, a harder balance to find, now that he had lost some of his innocence to the harsh reality of battle and the strain toward and to maintain freedom.

Likewise, as important as it is to protect our young sons (pages) while we train and teach them concepts and truths from God's word, there, at some point in early adolescence, comes a time when the boy must learn to think and act on what he knows, learning through failure, but growing in confidence through success. For Sand to Stone, we emphasize this between the ages of 13-18. During this age, we focus on:

- **Reasons** – The father continues to show why we believe what we believe, but engages in meaningful dialogue with the young man in areas of theology and ethics, allowing him to work out his faith, and allowing him to think independently. The father submits himself to the sanctifying work of Christ, and allows himself to use what he learns in his time with the Lord to encourage his son, while deepening his personal love and hunger for God.
- **Relationship** – Along the same vein, young men need to be heard to be understood, need to have a father who is more interested in being with his son rather than just trying to fix or straighten out his son, and need a dad who is quick to admit his mistakes and foster God's grace through Jesus Christ through confession and forgiveness. A young man needs a father who communicates with God through prayer, and is willing and able to do so with his son, showing the vital importance of this discipline in life.
- **Service** – A young man needs a father who loves Jesus so much that he embodies the idea that world isn't here to serve us, but rather, we are here to serve the world, for the sake of God's kingdom. A father teaches the true meaning of the love of the Father through acts of service.

## **REQUIREMENT PRIOR TO THE SQUIRE CEREMONY**

### BOOK STUDY AND DISCUSSION

You and your son need to go through the book “Preparing for Adolescence” by James Dobson prior to this ceremony. If your son is significantly older than 12-13 years of age, and you have had focused discussions about girls, dating, pornography, sex etc. already, you may forego this portion. If you have another resource you would like to use, please email us at [info@sand2stone.us](mailto:info@sand2stone.us) to let us know.

## **REQUIREMENTS DURING THE SQUIRE CEREMONY**

### MEMORIZATION

Your son will undergo two tests during the ceremony

1. Recitation of the 10 Manhood Principles (this test happens in both Part 1 and 2 of the ceremony)
2. Recitation of a short catechism, guided by the father

Part One of the Squire ceremony will involve a small group of men who will speak truth into the life of the boy desirous of becoming a squire. The boy will be cued to list one manhood principle at a time. Upon naming a principle, one man will come forward to speak, sharing his wisdom, then will return to the larger group. At that time, the boy will state another principle. Once the boy has named all ten of the principles, he will be relieved of that test.

The Ten Manhood Principles are:

**Principle 1 – Godly men serve God first and foremost**

**Principle 2 – Godly men are fully committed to their work**

**Principle 3 – Godly men respect authority**

**Principle 4 – Godly men maintain integrity**

**Principle 5 – Godly men embrace empathy**

**Principle 6 - Godly men defend and protect boldly**

**Principle 7 – Godly men act courageously**

**Principle 8 – Godly men are willingly accountable**

**Principle 9 – Godly men live for a transcendent cause**

**Principle 10 – Godly men embody humility**

---

Part 2 of the ceremony will occur in the larger group setting

The boy will be asked to recite the 10 manhood principles again, this time, without pause as before.

The father will then be asked to say a few words about his son (60-90 seconds). This brief moment is an excellent opportunity for the father to look back on how the son has grown over the years, and to encourage him moving forward. For fathers who have already taken their son through the Life Verse Ceremony and Page Ceremony, this is a good time to reflect on those key moments as well.

In addition, the father and son will engage in a short catechism. The father is not required to memorize his portion, but is also not discouraged in doing so either.

The catechism is as follows, where the son will be required to have his portion memorized.

**Dad:** Reads Gen. 1:27 then asks: How and why did God create you?

**Son: God created us male and female, in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him.**

**Dad:** Reads Matt 22:37-40 then asks: What does the law of God require?

**Son: That we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.**

**Dad:** Reads Romans 3:10-12 then asks: Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

**Son: Since the fall, no human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly.**

**Dad:** Reads Col. 1:22-23 then asks: Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

**Son: Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.**

**Dad:** reads Rom 10:9-10 then asks: How can we be saved?

**Son: Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross**

Upon completion of the ceremony, the son will receive a token from the facilitator physically distinguishing him as a squire. His role as a squire will be communicated to him during the ceremony, so all participants in it will hear what is expected of the young man.

