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Dear Parent,

Talk to your child about sex . . .

Sounds a little scary, doesn’t it? But you can do this. And if they don’t learn it from you, they will learn it from somebody else.

There’s a lot at stake for your child as he or she approaches the turbulent season of adolescence, and they need you as much now as they did through the infant and toddler years. There are new dangers, challenges, and opportunities ahead.

Be there.

The idea of going away for an entire weekend with your preteen may be new to you and perhaps even a little unsettling as you think about what you’ll discuss. But let us assure you that the cost-benefit ratio of this weekend is great. What you pour into this—an invaluable, concentrated time of memories and conversations—can result in relational equity and closeness that can last a lifetime. You’ll demonstrate trust in your child through the wise and compassionate yet straightforward treatment of these sensitive topics. Your child will hear—I value you and our relationship enough to tell you the truth. You can talk to me about this, and you can trust me.

You’ll also be seizing an opportunity to establish and shape the framework for your child’s worldview on many issues. Psychological theory holds that the first view we hear on a topic has a significant effect on our future interactions and beliefs. This means that as you talk about peer pressure, sex, and dating during your weekend getaway, you’re shaping the lens through which your child will decide what is true or false and right or wrong for years to come. You will have the chance to cast a vision not just for what to avoid but what the vast adventure of an untainted life, 100 percent devoted to God, can look like. And that’s an opportunity you can’t afford to miss.

The good news: you’ve taken the first step by opening this book. The better news: you’re not in this alone. God longs to generously give us the wisdom we ask from Him (James 1:5–6) and offers His Holy Spirit to guide each step and each conversation.

May He go before you, with you, in you, and through you.

Dennis and Barbara Rainey
Little Rock, Arkansas
9 Steps for Planning Your Getaway

Also refer to the checklists on the Quick-Start Card.

1. **PRAY:** When planning your weekend, begin by asking God to give you wisdom and favor as you prepare. Pray that He will guide you in challenging your preteen to establish godly convictions. Ask Him to give your preteen a teachable heart. (See page 17 for suggestions on how to pray for your preteen.)

2. **CHOOSE A DATE:** Sit down with your spouse, and choose a weekend that works for both of you. Check your family’s church, sports, and school calendars for any conflicts. Pick a date that is a couple of weeks or months away so that you have time to plan. Invite your preteen—perhaps even find a creative way to invite him or her so that you build anticipation.

3. **PLAN FOR SOME FUN:** Our suggested schedule calls for several hours of free time on Saturday. Decide in advance what activity to enjoy during this time. This will also help you choose your location. If you both like to fish, for example, you know you’ll want to find a hotel or cabin by a lake or river. This weekend is a time of relationship building, so choose something your preteen will enjoy.

A Few Other Suggestions:

- Make this a truly memorable activity by choosing something your preteen has always wanted to do or something that is fun and different from anything you’ve ever done before.

- Do not let the free-time event outgrow the weekend. The activity shouldn’t last more than five or six hours. If it does, it will cut into your instruction and discussion time.
• Make it a special weekend by going somewhere away from home where you can be alone together.

• Do not waste time watching television—you can do that any time.

• Plan your schedule to allow plenty of time to complete all five Passport2Purity® sessions (see suggested schedule on page 12).

• Make the weekend memorable. Invest in some souvenirs. Take lots of pictures. Laugh with each other.

Possible activities:

• Attend a college or professional sports game
• Go to a shooting club
• Take golf lessons

• Relax at the beach
• Go snow skiing

• Go fishing
• Go water skiing

• Go hiking
• Enjoy archery

• Go hunting
• Go ice skating

• Play golf
• Go sailing

• Go canoeing
• Pick berries

• Take a camping trip
• Take a shopping trip

• Visit a unique educational or historical site
• Tour a historic city

• Go to an amusement park
• Go for a manicure, pedicure, or makeover

• Play tennis
• Look for antiques

• Go to the zoo
• Arrange for a glamour photo session

• Tour a cave or cavern
• Ride go-carts or motorcycles
4. **CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION:** Make the proper arrangements to stay near your activity. This will mean booking a hotel room or campsite or perhaps arranging to use a friend’s vacation home. We recommend traveling no more than two hours from home. This allows enough time to listen to the first session in the car and enjoy the trip without being worn out from travel. Just being somewhere different will make the trip special.

5. **PLAN YOUR MEALS:** Choose restaurants, food, and snacks you know your preteen will enjoy. Also plan a special meal for Saturday night when you will present your preteen with a gift (if you choose to do so) and affix the visa stamp to the Travel Journal. This celebration dinner will commemorate a true milestone in the life of your son or daughter.

6. **REVIEW THE CONTENT:** In order to be best prepared for the Passport2Purity weekend, you should familiarize yourself with the content. Listen to the “Parents Only” session for an overview of the content and the weekend. Then, take your Bible and pen and read through the note-taking outlines in this Tour Guide (pages 1J and following). Take time to read the “Unravel the Travel” and “Make Up Your Mind” discussion questions in each section. And be sure to read through the project instructions starting on page 23. If time allows, also listen to the sessions ahead of time to be well prepared and anticipate any questions that might arise during the weekend.

7. **PREPARE YOUR MATERIALS:** There are three types of materials you will want to prepare in advance of the trip: (1) project components, (2) photos of you, and (3) notes to your child.

**Projects:** These special object lessons are found in each session. They will make a big difference in how well your preteen learns and remembers the lessons, and they’re fun. You can gather the materials needed for the projects yourself or order the accompanying P2P Project Kit from shopFamilyLife.com.
Photos: If possible, find pictures of yourself at different stages of development for Session Three (pre-school, elementary, preteen, and twenties). Glue photos or color copies over the sketches in your child’s Travel Journal on page 24 or 28. He or she will probably get a big charge out of seeing your development, but the photos will also help emphasize that you understand what he or she is about to go through or is currently going through. If you can’t locate pictures of yourself, the sketches will suffice.

Notes: In the back of the student’s Travel Journal are some blank pages. The first few are for you and/or your spouse to each write a note to your child. Your preteen will read the notes at the beginning of the getaway when you present the Travel Journal. When writing your note, express your anticipation and excitement for the weekend; share how you have been praying for your child; mention that this is an activity you would have appreciated as a preteen.

If you are a single parent you may want to ask a grandparent, another relative, or someone close to your child to write one of the notes. If you cannot write one, don’t worry; there are no written instructions on the pages in your child’s journal to indicate what the pages are for. However, we encourage you to make this a priority if at all possible, because handwritten notes add a personal touch that your child will appreciate and cherish.

8. PURCHASE A SPECIAL GIFT: Gifts are like bookmarks in time that remind us of events, sights, words, and special people. An important part of the Passport2Purity getaway is the giving of a gift as a memento of the weekend. This is a good opportunity to choose something meaningful. For example, many parents give their children a piece of jewelry—a ring, bracelet, necklace, etc.—that symbolizes a commitment to moral purity. Be sure to be sensitive to your preteen’s tastes. This is an optional part of the weekend experience, but we highly recommend it.
Other gift ideas include:

- Leather study Bible (embossed)
- Engraved pocketknife
- Cross necklace
- Purity ring
- Fine writing instrument
- Music box
- Meaningful family heirloom
- Musical instrument
- Unique piece of clothing
- Wristwatch
- Collectible item (coin, stamp, figurine, stuffed animal, doll, sports card, etc.)
- Signed and numbered print for room
- Key chain
- Miniature sculpture
- Binoculars
- Start-up toolbox
- Camera
- Easel and paints
- Telescope
- Compass
- Pictures and frames (including a frame for snapshots taken on the weekend)
- Leather luggage or makeup case
- Ring (pearl, precious stone, or signet)
- Personalized stationery
- Address book with name engraved on it
- Sweatshirt with logo of someplace special
- Engraved letter opener
- Mug with a special saying on it

9. **MAKE SURE TO BEGIN ON TIME:** Do not let last-minute work or responsibilities bog you down or your weekend may start on the wrong foot. Instead, plan to leave work early, which will communicate how much you value your child and highlight the importance of this getaway. Stick to your schedule to make the most of your time together.