



Youth Leader,

Every year, we pour ourselves into our students, teaching them, praying for them, planning events for them, hoping that God does a mighty work in their lives and they grow in their faith. By the time they become seniors in high school, we know our remaining time with them is limited. I hope and pray this resource will be a blessing to you as you create one more meaningful moment to speak truth into their lives.

In the resource folder, you'll find several items that will help you put this event together.

- An invitation letter to your seniors
- A presentation file for the event (Keynote & Powerpoint)
- A folder with all the pictures used in the Keynote/PowerPoint so you can build your own (including a different title slides, if you'd rather call it Senior Blessing).
- Instructions for how to play a fun "Guess Who" game, where seniors guess who did what silly thing as a kid.
- A 1700-word message manuscript of the Sending Talk (Word file)
- A copy of the gift photo you can print for your students

This event has seven basic components:

1. What's Next – An introduction of the seniors and what their plans are upon graduation.
2. Guess Who – A fun look back at their younger days using baby/kid photos and funny stories.
3. Senior Slideshow – An opportunity for you to dig up some photos from their time with your student ministry.
4. My Turn – A final charge from you regarding what it looks like to walk with and abide in Jesus.
5. The Gifting – Blessing our graduating seniors with an inspirational photo for them to hang in their room (dorm or otherwise). Also, this is an opportunity for you to give other gifts that are meaningful.
6. Parent Time – Each senior's parent(s) share words of love and affirmation with their child. They are prompted to answer two basic



[Author Note: As you prayerfully consider what the Lord wants you to share with your graduating seniors, please use this manuscript as a jumping off point. Share your story, how God brought you to where you are today. Take what makes sense and leave behind what doesn't. May the Lord give you the unique words He wants you to share with these teens.]

Intro – My Story:

How on Earth did we get here already?! Can you believe you're here?! You guys are only _____ days / weeks from graduation!

As hard as it might seem to believe, I've been where you are. 😊(It may surprise some of you, but I DID graduate from High School.) 😊I remember thinking and dreaming, being excited about the new adventure ahead. At the same time, I was nervous, uncertain, unsure of how things would go.

For those who don't know, I went to college planning on being a handyman. (pause for laughter). My family built our own house when I was growing up and I loved working with my dad and brothers, pulling electrical wire, putting up sheetrock, laying tile, and turning our house into a home. I felt confident that God was calling me to serve others by being a handyman, sharing his love with whoever hired me or needed my help. My first semester of college, my freshmen year, I got the opportunity to be in a woodshop class...for the first time. We spent (what felt like) the first six weeks, sniffing wood. Yes, that's right. We learned the smells of different types of timber: cherry, oak, maple. I remember being excited when my professor finally let us out of the classroom and onto the floor of the shop. He told us that our semester project would be to make coffee tables. I was stoked... until I realized how tedious some of that work can be: planing, gluing, sanding. I was bored out of my mind. I quickly realized that being a handyman was not how God was leading me.

That same semester, within two weeks of one another, I had two *different* people offer me positions working with youth groups. The first offer was from my youth minister back home. I'd told her that I was going to be home for the summer and would love to help. (I said this primarily because I

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