



THE RITE JOURNEY

TRANSFORMING TODAY'S TEENS

The Rite Journey Parenting Plan.

**Do you have children in your life?
If so what's your plan for raising them?
How will you develop them to be responsible, resilient and resourceful?
What will you do when they're 4...when they're 10...when they're 16?
I didn't really have an intentional plan, nor could find I one, so I thought...
it's time to create one!**

Feedback from James Sheahan Catholic High School P&F, Orange

"Thank you so much for your wonderful talk last night. We've already had so much feedback from parents saying how great your talk was, and also how pleased they are that the school is running the Rite Journey program.

I think people particularly liked your idea of increasing responsibility as your kids get older, with the intention of creating a great adult by the time they're 18. Or at least, someone who's on the way to becoming a great adult!

Your ideas about timing of birthday gifts and what to give was really useful, as were your views on consequences and learning responsibility.

And the 'letting go' at the end, when our kids turn 18, really resonated with me."

Feedback from Silverdale School, Auckland

"Andrew's presentation is a must for all parents with kids aged from 0-18.

He delivers in a warm, compassionate and humorous way, taking us back to our own childhoods and sharing some of the wisdom he has learnt as the parent / step parent to 7 kids.

His simple tools for making positive changes in your family life are easy to implement and realistic.

His skills and experience will help us all raise resilient and decent human beings."

I have spent my decades of teaching and parenting exploring the ultimate goal of education and raising children - and I have come to believe that the intention is to create a successful adult. To set our young people up so that they have the greatest chance of living a fulfilling life which is responsible and respectful and contributes to the betterment of their community/society.

An issue for me in my parenting has been there's very little practical education or direction as to the best way to do this - to be parenting with the long term goal in mind. Most of us are so busy, parenting moment by moment, responding to the issues as they arrive without a game plan of what we hope to create.

It was the same for me initially, I had no real goal as to what I was aiming for and certainly no plan.

However, over my years as a father and a teacher I have learned that there is another way we can do this.

I now spend time reflecting on the type of adult I'd like my children to be, the qualities I'd like them to develop, the virtues I'd like them to carry, the level of responsibility I'd hope they live with - and I have created a template - a process - that will help me work towards that goal and enable them to develop into the best version of themselves.

I find it strange that I have been encouraged to have goals and plans for a number of different aspects of my life, but in my most important role, being a father, a parent, I have typically coasted along with no direction. So over recent years I have created an intentional process which aims to develop my children into responsible young adults - and I'd like to share it with others.

I've grown to realise, that when a child enters my life, I have roughly 18 years of influence before they are legally, here in Australia, inducted into adulthood. They are given every legal freedom we have to offer on the day they turn 18, and, as their parent, I have an obligation to have prepared them for that.

So what can we do in those 18 years?

I have created a proactive plan, which I have found really easy to execute. Effectively it is a 'transition template' for your child in which we are going to use birthdays as little moments of graduation into the next stage of life.

Along with this we will be intentional about the gifts that we buy them on their birthday, with each one representing the next step of building of responsibility in their lives, the next shift of creating them to be a capable and resourceful human.

Along the way we will also honour significant moments with our child, for example we will create a special celebration to honour a daughter's menarche, her first period.

At 14 we will have ceremony and celebration around our child's transition into young adulthood via a Rite of Passage process and then at 18 we will craft a release ceremony which allows them to cross the threshold into that next stage of life.

The Rite Journey Parenting Plan Workshop will begin by exploring the world that our children live in, the effects of parenting styles of the 21st Century and will then move into providing parents with practical help on how to create a responsible, respectful, resourceful, resilient young adult. Parents will leave with a template of their own...an action plan that they can start putting into place immediately.