# SENIOR SUNDAY

## A Digital Graduation Celebration for the Whole Family

First, congratulations! You are the proud parent of a high school senior. While this year's celebration may not look exactly like what you've been picturing for the last 18 years, the outcome is still the same. They made it! (And so did you!)

## So, let's celebrate together!

This year we're going to be hosting a SENIOR SUNDAY online event. It will be a blast. Here's how to make it special for YOUR senior:

### INVITE EVERYONE TO THE PARTY

Your family and friends are just as excited to celebrate with your graduate as you are! Throughout the day, find some fun and maybe crazy ways that you can include them in the party. Set up times for FaceTime calls or fun family text threads. Have an aunt or an uncle yell "CONGRATULATIONS!" over the phone whenever your teen enters the room. Try to involve as many friends and family as you can. As they say, the more the merrier!

### PREPARE TO WATCH

Senior Sunday includes a short video. You can watch from your phone, a computer, or a giant movie screen if that's your setup.

### CREATE A SPECIAL MOMENT

A key moment in Senior Sunday is the Family Conversation. Don't worry. You already know the answers! On the screen, you'll see the following prompts appear:

I am proud of you because . . .

One thing I hope for your future is . . .

This is a great time to pause the video and have family members encourage your senior. In addition to speaking words of encouragement, have family members outside the home write their answer on a notecard and mail it to you. You can give the notecards to your senior before they move into the next phase as a reminder that they are loved and their future is bright.



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### **KEEP THE CELEBRATION GOING**

As parents, we're juggling so many details on celebration days, we're just thankful if everyone who is supposed to attend the day's events actually shows up. And we're thankful if there's a minimal amount of drama. At the end of the day, a Senior Sunday dinner (or lunch) is a wonderful way to wrap everything up and tie it all back together. It's a chance to relax and reminisce. And, with just a little bit of planning, you can make this meal feel significant and memorable in the best way possible. Here are a few tips:

Whether your family is all in the same home or some are attending via video chat, let them know ahead of time that you'd like them to reflect on one or more of the questions that you've selected from the following list. There's no pressure for your guests to go through all of them, just the questions they feel most equipped to answer in a way that honors your senior.

What do you most appreciate about the senior?
What characteristics about the senior do you want to mirror in your own life?
What story about the senior captures their unique and admirable qualities?
What's one way you have seen God at work in the senior's life?
What's one thing you hope the graduate contributes to the world?

At the end of dinner, take a group photo (or a screenshot if you have video attendees) and frame it for your senior as a reminder of their special day. You can conclude with a time of prayer for the senior if appropriate.

#### **CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES**

### **FOR THEM**

"Starting Now: A 30 Day Devotional Guide to Becoming Who You Want to Be in College"
by Crystal Chiang and Gerald Fadayomi

"Before You Go: Following Jesus and Growing in Your Faith After High School"
by Gerald Fadayomi

### **FOR YOU**

"18 Plus: Parenting Your Emerging Adult" and "Growing With: Every Parent's
Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family and Future"
by Kara Powell and Steven Argue
"Growing With: Small Group Book Discussion Guide"
from the Fuller Youth Institute

