The Small Church Sending Kit

Practical care for graduates entering college, work, training, military service, or another next step.

A church can send a graduate with prayer, a useful conversation, and people who stay in touch. This guide gives a small team a manageable plan; adapt every piece to the person rather than assuming every graduate is leaving home or knows what comes next.

What is inside

- A six-week preparation plan and a 25-minute leader conversation guide.
- A sending-service order with original words and a prayer; a letter template and a printable prayer card.
- A graduate page for finding a church and building everyday rhythms, with college, work, and military considerations.
- A parent and caregiver guide and a consent-based, first-year follow-up plan with usable check-in examples.

How to use it

Read pages 2–3 first. Invite the graduate to shape the plan. Copy the sheets that fit, use your church’s preferred Bible translation, and ask a pastor to review service language. The templates are planning aids, not legal, medical, or military advice.

Prepare

Choose a coordinator and a backup. Allow about 30 minutes to prepare, plus one conversation and the service time your church chooses. Print pages 4, 6, 8, and 12 only if useful; all activities can be done without a printer.

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A conversation that listens

Allow about 25 minutes. Meet in an appropriate, observable setting under your church's policies. Do not make the conversation a test or require answers to every question.

Open • 3 minutes

Say: "I'm glad we get to talk. What would be useful for us to discuss before your next step?" Ask what may be shared with parents, the church, or another leader; explain the limits of confidentiality and safeguarding before inviting personal disclosures.

Listen • 10 minutes

- What are you looking forward to? What feels uncertain?
- What will your ordinary week look like, as far as you know? Who will be nearby?
- Would you like help finding a church or Christian community? What matters to you as you look?
- What support would feel helpful—and what would feel intrusive?

Make a small plan • 8 minutes

Offer page 4. Together choose one practical next step, who will do it, and when. Ask whether the graduate would like a follow-up contact and how often. Let them change their mind later.

Close • 4 minutes

Summarize: "I heard that ___ would help, and I will ___ by ___." Ask permission before praying aloud. Pray briefly for wisdom, belonging, and trust in Christ. If a concern involves immediate danger, follow the church's emergency and safeguarding procedures promptly; do not wait for the next scheduled check-in.

If you do not know the answer

Say, "I don't know, but I can help you find someone who does." Do not promise secrecy, an outcome, housing, financial help, or a mentor's availability without confirming it.

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