

# ZOE & LMORE

*Living with Purpose and Passion*

## *It's Your Turn to Fly!*

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Genesis 28:15 (NIV)

"My nest is empty and so is my life," my friend confided in me.

The words flowed as quickly as the tears sliding down her face. "I'm anxious about this new life chapter for my child and for myself."

If you're an empty nester, you will be able to relate to the anxiety my friend is experiencing. Wanting your child to grow up and use the wings of independence you've worked years to generate, while trying to anticipate the future is not easy.

Although this is uncharted waters, as parents we must remember that we are supposed to let go as we prepare our children for adulthood. Proverbs 22:6(NIV) says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

In short, the best way to be ready to let go of our kids is to prepare them to live as responsible, godly adults. It will stretch us and test our faith to truly begin to let go but, we can rest in the truth that the One who made our children continues to hold them in the palm of His hand.

This time of transition takes some navigating to be sure. After all, we've dedicated our time and energy and purposed our prayers into our nest. We've set aside many things because nothing was more important than raising our little birdies.

You might find this unimaginable now, but I enjoy the fact that my chicks have flown the coop. Although I love my sons deeply, I'm grateful they are competent and independent grown men. Friends, life is not over when our children leave the nest; it's

just the start of a new life chapter. This is a time to rejoice in God's faithfulness as He has equipped our little birds to fly away on their own.

Our heavenly Father experienced an empty nest first hand when He said to His son, "Go, and leave the perfection of heaven. Go; take our redemptive plan to those who need salvation. And Jesus did leave perfection to come to our perverted and perverse world. Jesus came into the world to save the world according to John 3:17(NIV). "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Jesus left His home in heaven with purpose and He moves our children out of the nest also with purpose. He is preparing them to do the work He is calling them to and to move you forward towards the plans He has for you.

When you're tempted to worry about having an empty nest, I want to encourage you to whisper a prayer of thanksgiving that God emptied His nest so you and I could be included in His perfect plan.

Remember, we serve the God of the empty nest and now it's your turn to fly! Perhaps, a bit scary, but extremely exciting too!

*Dear Lord, Dear Lord, you blessed me with the gift of my children and have enabled me to care for them. As they leave this home and begin a new life apart from me, help me find comfort in knowing that my child is your child too. Amen.*

### **Application Steps:**

Ask the Lord to reveal the things He is planning for you to complete. Perhaps it's writing a book or finishing your degree.

Pray about volunteering at your church or for another ministry.

### **Reflections:**

So, are your kids about to leave the nest? If yes, then it's your time to fulfill the next life chapter God is writing in your life.

Pray for your adult children and trust that God's with them every minute of every day.

### **Power Verses:**

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."(NIV)

Deuteronomy 4:9, "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them." (NIV)