

MILESTONES

What are Family Discipleship Milestones?

Simply put, milestones are marking and making occasions to celebrate and commemorate significant milestones in the life of family and children.

There will be tens if not hundreds of milestones in each individual family that you will be inclined to celebrate because of your personal and familial passions and preferences. However, these are seven that we as a church are committing to walking alongside you with.



CREEK FAMILIES

PARENT COMMISSIONING & CHILD DEDICATION

What is parent commissioning and child dedication?

It is the setting apart of children by their parents as they commit to see their children raised in a God-honoring home.

Where can I find parent commissioning and child dedication in the Bible?

1 Samuel 1:1 – 2:11 Hannah dedicates Samuel to the Lord.

Luke 2:21 – 52 Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple to be dedicated according to Hebrew Law.

What should I be doing?

1. Be a disciple first.

- An intentional, consistent personal time in Bible study, prayer and worship.

2. Know your role in the family.

- Moms – Proverbs 31
- Dads – Colossians 3

3. Calendar Christ First

- An intentional consistent family time in Bible study, prayer, and worship.

4. Look to learn and to teach

- Everything you encounter is a teachable moment (Deut. 6)

5. Remember who is in charge

- Psalm 139
- This is God's child, not your child



GOSPEL FOUNDATION 1: SALVATION

What does it mean to lay a Gospel foundation in hopes of leading my child to faith in Christ?

Celebrating that God has created them in His image. (Gen. 1 -2)

Beginning to expose them to the fall and their personal sin. (Gen 3)

Promoting Jesus's finished work of redemption. (Romans 5: 6 - 8)

Modeling and teaching what new life in Christ looks like. (2 Cor. 5:17)

Where can I find laying a Gospel foundation in the Bible?

Deut. 6:4-9 The Jewish family shared these truths with their children in all aspects of life.

2 Timothy 1:3-5 – Paul commends Timothy on the faith he had seen and been taught by his family, going back multiple generations.

What should I be teaching?

Helping your child navigate the following questions:

- **Who is God, who is Jesus, who is the Holy Spirit?**
- **Who am I and where did I come from?**
- **What is personal sin?**
- **How did God fix the problem of sin?**
- **How do I respond?**
- **What is repentance and how do I repent?**
- **What is faith/belief?**

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GOSPEL FOUNDATION 2: BAPTISM & COMMUNION

What is Baptism?

According to Romans 6:1-11:

Baptism is a picture of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

Baptism is a picture of someone's death to sin and new life in Christ.

Baptism is a picture of what Christ has done in the individual.

Baptism is a public celebration of our individual salvation.

Baptism is one of many acts of obedience for the believer.

What is Communion?

According to 1 Cor. 11:17-34:

Communion is a gift from Jesus representing the shedding of His blood and giving His body for mankind.

Communion is one of many acts of obedience for the believer.

Communion is the gathering of the church to remember & celebrate Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Communion is a reminder that we are to live like Christ.

What should I be doing?

As parents, help your child see the difference between "wanting" to be baptized and knowing their NEED to be baptized (Acts 16:25-34).

As parents, be intentional to create a memorable milestone that includes a celebration of God's work (Luke 15:32).

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WORSHIP THROUGH LIFE STAGES

Worship through life stages sounds great, what does that mean?

We believe that age appropriate worship is crucial to cultivating a love and understanding for who God is and His word. (Prov. 22:6)

These are the important transitions that your child will make as they worship at Brushy Creek:

Going from the nursery to the Creek Preschool. (beginning in 3K)

Going from Creek Preschool to Creek Kids. (beginning in K5)

Going from Creek Kids to Creek Students. (beginning in 6th Grade)

What are key differences in each stage?

Creek Preschool:

Understand personal worship by singing and dancing.

Engage in hands-on activities that reinforce the Bible lesson.

Begin Bible verse memorization.

Learn that God is real, His word is true, and He loves each of us.

Creek Kids:

Use our own personal Bibles.

Explore the divisions of the OT and NT along with their themes.

Locate specific scripture references.

Practice praying.

Creek Students:

Engage in personal Bible reading & evangelism.

Participate in our on weekly worship service.

Engage in weekly midweek small groups.

Help lead in worship service, small groups, and retreats.

How can I help my children prepare?

Make it a priority to serve where you children worship, so they know their worship is important to you.

Have intentional conversations with your child before they transition to each new stage.

Share with them the exciting new things they will experience.

Remind them that their worship is important to the Lord. (Deuteronomy 6)



PREPARING FOR ADOLESCENCE

What is Adolescence?

Adolescence is defined as the phase of life between childhood and adulthood, typically from ages 10 to 19. This is the time when children begin to experience many physical, mental, social, and spiritual changes.

What should I be doing?

Pre-teens are dealing with fear and anxiety. So, we are:

- Asking Questions - their answers will help us train their minds and guide their hearts.
- Creating a safe environment – let them know they can ask questions without being judged or shut out.
- Being authentic
- Being involved – involve them in the decision-making process.
- Letting them know they are not alone (Deut. 31:6)
- Being available

Pre-teens are dealing with constant change. So, we:

- Advise them on their friendships (Proverbs 13:20)
- Help them deal with Biblical questions (1 Cor. 13:11, Rom. 12:2)
- Address Body issues (Ps. 139:14)
- Focus on character (Prov. 4:23)
- Ground “the talk” in Scripture (Mark 10:6-9, Eph 5)

As parents we might be concerned that we will overwhelm our pre-teen or encourage curiosity if we jump the gun. A greater concern is that we wait and someone else will beat us to it.

Danny Akin – Our children DO care what we think, they DO listen to what we say, and they pay attention to what we DO!

Your most important job is to teach your child to love the Lord and keep their focus on Him. (Mark 12:30)

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PREPARING FOR GRADUATION & BEYOND

What do you mean by graduation and beyond?

Graduation and beyond is the time frame that families are preparing for their child's high school graduation and next steps after. This usually begins midway through their sophomore year and continues through college.

What should I be doing?

- College & Career Prep (FAFSA, College Applications, etc.)
- Provide an example for them to follow, point to Jesus. 1 Cor. 11:1
- Provide opportunities for them to “practice adulting”
- Remind them they will make mistakes but are forgiven in Christ. Rom. 6:17-18, Rom. 8:1-2
- Emphasize they are called to have an abundant life. This kind of life is only found in relationship to God. John 10:10
- Help them understand their role in the family and the community. Ephesians 5
- Participate in graduate sending ceremony.
- Transition from lecturer to listener.
“I’m for you. I’m on your team. I want to help.”

3 Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, offspring, a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons born in one's youth. - Psalms 127:3-4

Like arrows, our kids are meant to be sent out. Why an arrow? An arrow is used to pierce. To attack the enemy. We are to be training our kids to be arrows in the hands of Jesus for His Kingdom. To be dangerous on behalf of the Gospel.

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