

Life Milestones Strategy

Milestone	Target	Purpose	Core competencies
Baby Blessings	Homes with newborns; parents who are expecting	Marking the milestone when parents first present their baby to God	Parent/guardian as primary faith trainer
First Bible	Homes with children age 2-4	Marking the milestone when children receive their own copy of God's word	Sowing God's Word
Faith Commitment	Homes with children 4 years old and older who are not Christians	Marking the milestone when a child chooses Christ as Savior	Who is Jesus? What is truth? What is sin? What is salvation? Why do I need to be baptized?
Preteen Passage	Homes with children at age 9	Marking the milestone when a preteen passes from childhood to adolescence	Identity Spiritual Growth Disciplines
Commitment to Purity	Homes with children in sixth grade and above	Marking the milestone when a teenager commits to purity for life	Biblical purity Healthy friendships Identity in Christ Biblical Sex
Passage to Adulthood	Homes with 9th-10th graders	Marking the milestone when a teenager passes from adolescence to adulthood	Roles of men/women Spiritual gifts/service
High School Graduation	Homes with graduating seniors	Marking the milestone when a teenager launches from HS	Defending my faith God's plan for my life Dating Marriage Life skills

The Life Milestones Strategy aims to:

- Keep the biblical model for the spiritual growth of the family on our minds (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 describes a model that is family-centered and church-supported **NOT** church-centered and family-supported)
 - Love God—teach others to love God—especially in the home
- Provide support, encouragement, accountability, and resources for families as they journey through various stages of life with their children
- Provide a strategy for following the biblical model described above
 - There are other strategies that churches and parents utilize in following the biblical model of Deuteronomy 6:4-9

The Life Milestones Strategy does **NOT** aim to:

- Point out anyone's parental shortcomings
- Tell you how to parent your own children
- Transform you into the perfect family
 - Your children will still mess up. They will still embarrass and frustrate you. They will still require you to devote large quantities of time to them. This is not a "set it and forget it" strategy.
- Make an idol out of the home and family
 - Isaiah 42:8: "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."
- Exclude children/youth whose families are not engaged with our church
- Make us so inwardly-focused on our families that we forget or neglect the outward focus of the Great Commission
 - Follow the Great Commission as a family!