



LEGACY

MILESTONES

Salvation and Baptism

Milestone 2

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical system, including photocopying and recording, without express written permission of the author.

Request for permission should be sent electronically to
pastorbrian@bafbc.org

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®,
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Milestone 2: Salvation and Baptism

Every Christian parent yearns for the day his child receives Christ as Savior. The implications are enormous and eternity hangs in the balance. Literally, this is the most important decision we can lead our children toward making. However, There are some important things we need to learn in order to lead well through this stage.



How about you?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 gives the foundational call to parents to become the primary faith trainers of their children. This Scriptural call to parents is of the highest priority in life. Parents are not simply attempting to create good hard-working citizens or moral children who respect others. Parents introduce their children to the God of the universe, their Creator, who loves them deeply. Christianity is not a set of rules or right answers but a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:5-6 states, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”**

Do you have you a relationship with Jesus Christ? Are you simply adhering to a set of standards or rules and trying to live a moral life or do you have a relationship with Jesus?

Notes:

Write out your story briefly below.

Milestone 7: Life in Christ

The final Milestone in the path is called Life in Christ. Composed of seven core competencies, this milestone extends to the end of our lives. Your walk with Jesus will directly impact your children. Living in a fallen world, we will not be perfect parents or followers of Christ. But, we should be continually transformed by the renewing of our minds granting discernment of God's will (Romans 12:2).

Do your life and actions reflect and demonstrate Life in Christ?

Today is a good day to begin walking in a manner worthy of your calling (Ephesians 4:1). You are modeling Life in Christ to your children. Take the Milestone 7 seminar to discover more about Life in Christ.

Leading them along the Path...

Milestone 1: Parent and Baby Dedication is the first step on the path. Parents learn their roles as primary faith trainers in the life of their child. Many years will pass between the dedication of a baby and the beginning of her new life in Christ. There is no set age for this to take place but the decision to follow Christ often occurs between 7-11 years old. Those 7 to 11 years are crucial in leading her down the path for such a decision to be made.

Part I: What they need to know! – Core Competencies

- ☞ ***Who is Jesus?*** – The basics of who Jesus was and is.
- ☞ ***What is Faith/Belief?*** – Faith is believing in Jesus and trusting Him to grant salvation through His grace. It is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)
- ☞ ***What is Biblical Truth?*** – Truth defined by the Bible, God's infallible truth given to us without any mixture of error.
- ☞ ***What is personal sin?*** – Disobedience to God and His Word, separating us from a relationship with Him.
- ☞ ***What is repentance and how do I repent?*** – Recognizing that I have sinned and it has broken my relationship with God; confessing sin and trusting God to turn my heart towards Him; following in obedience is an important part of repentance.

Milestone 2: Salvation and Baptism

- **What is Salvation?** – It is a gift from God, from His grace, given to those who have faith or believe. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- **What is Baptism and why should I do it?** – It is a public, symbolic display of one's faith in Jesus Christ. It is a witness to all that you are now a follower of Jesus Christ.

Obviously, this is just an elementary understanding of these concepts. Resources are available to help you teach your kids these core basics.

Broad Range of Scripture

One vital aspect of your child learning to follow Christ is a broad range of Scripture. The Bible is God's Living Word given to us to introduce us to Him. It is God's story through history of His relationship with mankind. God's Word penetrates the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). The more God's truth is taught to them, the greater understanding children will have of God and what it means to follow Him.

How are you teaching your children God's truth now?

Part II: Teach them diligently to your children...

How do we teach our children diligently?



1. Faith Talks: Faith Talks are an intentional time set aside each week for conversation around the Scripture. Faith talks take on different forms according to how you and your family are wired. But as different as they may look, Faith Talks should be:

- **Intentional:** You place effort and energy into creating a good environment to teach God's truth.
- **Each week:** Faith Talks should happen once a week. Frequency and consistency open the door to spiritual conversation.
- **Conversation:** According to their development, let the teaching time be a conversation and not simply a mini-sermon.
- **Scripture:** God's Word changes your child!



2. God Moments: God Moments are informal, unplanned moments where God shows up in your child's life. The importance of parents capitalizing on these moments in their child's life cannot be overstated. Intentional faith talks will often stir these moments in your child. The rush and business of life challenges the ability to perceive and capitalize on these important moments. Taking time to answer questions or point our children to Jesus and the Bible are crucial.



Milestone 2: Salvation and Baptism

3. Celebrating Milestones: Each milestone on the path includes family celebrations. The time and energy invested in celebrating these milestones with your child communicates the value and importance of walking the path.



4. The Church: The community of believers will also play a critical role in teaching your child God's truth. While you are the primary faith trainer, the church partners with you to teach through:

- Weekly Preschool and Children's ministries (Both Sundays and Wednesdays)
- Yearly events including VBS, Various retreats, Terrific Tuesday's, etc

Part III: The Role of the Holy Spirit

"and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

The desire to see children come to know Christ can place pressure on parents to "say the right things" and not make any mistakes. The verses above illustrate Paul's understanding that his words, no matter how clever, could lead anyone to follow Christ. He understood that he was the messenger but the message would be accepted as the Holy Spirit delivered it to their hearts.

➔ God moves...

Through consistent teaching of Scripture, God helps kids begin to put things together! For some, it will happen on the school bus, others in the back seat of the car, and still others, sitting at the dinner table. God will guide their minds to make the connections work.

When they verbalize these connections, it becomes a God Moment on which we can capitalize!

➔ Parents pray...

Teaching the truth has a partner called prayer. Parents interceding for their children is the most powerful tool they could ask for.

Milestone 2: Salvation and Baptism

In John 17:20, Jesus prays, *“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe through their word, that they may be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also, may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”*

Jesus prayed for the generations that would tell the next generation, and the next generation. The prayers we pray for our children will not only impact them but the generations to follow.

Imagine a thanksgiving meal with your great-grandchildren, grandchildren and children. With everyone gathered around the table or fireplace, your legacy will be visible. The foundation you build in your child’s life can impact not only their eternity but the generations to follow.

An Important Note to Parents: Salvation is not a box to check. It is the beginning of a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. Often with good intentions, parents can force their children into a decision the child is not ready to make. Children need to make this decision with a good understanding at the Holy Spirit’s prompting in their life.

What if my kids don’t make a decision during this window of their life?

If your child doesn’t receive Christ, continue praying and walking the path. Continue investing through Faith Talks, God Moments and Celebrating Milestones. The path doesn’t look the same for every child.

Leading them to Christ

How do I know when?

Important things to look for:

- ➔ Children begin asking questions about spiritual things.



Milestone 2: Salvation and Baptism

- Children may experience a change of behavior indicating the Holy Spirit's work in their life. Conviction may be playing a new role in their moods, attitudes, etc. These times should be authentic and not based on the threat of consequences.
- Children begin to go through prolonged periods of spiritual interest.
- Children begin to put pieces of their understanding together as it relates their personal relationship to God.

How do I specifically lead them to receive Jesus Christ?

Walk them through the following and help them understand:

1. ***God loves you and has a plan for you*** (Jeremiah 29:11, John 3:16)
2. ***Everyone is a sinner*** (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
 - What is sin? – Disobeying God; breaking God's law; making a decision to do things which are wrong; knowing what is good to do but not doing it; not loving our neighbors.
 - i. Ask your child to name sins he has made...
 - Ask your child what the result of sin is? – death, separation from God
3. ***What do we deserve?*** - death and separation from God
4. ***What does God give?*** – “the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23; “but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8
 - God gives a free gift of salvation because of what Jesus did on the cross. Jesus lived a perfect life and then sacrificed His life for us on the cross to give us the ability to have a relationship with God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
5. ***One Way:*** “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6
6. ***What do we need to do?***
 - a. Repent. “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out...” Acts 3:19
 - b. Confess and Believe. “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” Romans 10:9-10

Milestone 2: Salvation and Baptism

- c. Pray. By their own choosing, a child must turn from sin and commit to Christ. The next step is for your child to pray, confessing his sin and asking God's forgiveness. A model of what a child could say is below:

"Jesus, thank you for loving me...I know I have sinned...I know you died on the cross to pay for my sin...I want you to come into my life...and take away all my sin...I want to live my life obeying you. I love you. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."

7. **Confirm their decision.** Ask the following questions:
 - a. Where are your sins? Gone.
 - b. Where is Jesus or the Holy Spirit? In my heart or soul.
8. **Eternal Security:** Help them understand that this decision is permanent; nothing can remove them from God's hand.

☞ *"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." John 10:28-29*

☞ *"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory." Ephesians 1:13-14*

Celebrate Their New Life in Christ

- ☞ Contact Barbara Brennan or Vicki Hoyle to share their experiences. This step is important because it connects church and home. Barbara and Vicki want to rejoice in the decision your child has made and help him take the next steps in his walk with Jesus.
- ☞ If you need help...please contact Barbara or Vicki. If you want to make sure that "you did everything right", Barbara and Vicki can place your mind at rest and talk with your son or daughter about his or her decision.

Baptism: The First step of Obedience

What is the purpose of baptism?

- Identify with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. (Colossians 2:12)
- Publicly declare your new life as a Christian. (Romans 6:4)



Why baptism by immersion?

- Jesus was baptized by immersion.
- Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.
- The Greek word for baptism means: "to immerse or dip under water."

What is involved?

1. Contact the church after your child has received Christ into his life.
2. Schedule a date and make it an important event in your child's life.
3. Invite family and friends to gather around the garden area.

The actual baptism: Prepare your child by walking through exactly what will happen when she is baptized.

- She will leave church early with you and change clothes into a T-shirt provided by Kingsland.
- One of the Kingsland pastors will baptize her (you are welcome to request a specific pastor).
- The pastor will ask one question, "Is it true that you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?"
- The pastor will grab her arm as he holds her nose. He will place his other arm on her back and place her underwater no more than 2 seconds.
- You will be right there with her standing on the edge of the water.
- It is a good idea to have your child witness another child's baptism before her own if she is showing signs of fear about the actual event.

Celebrate the Milestone...Spiritual Birthday Party

Each of the Legacy Milestones includes a family celebration or event to mark the importance of passing through each life marker.

- Plan a spiritual birthday party for your child making it as simple or elaborate as you would like.
- Give your child something to remember the occasion. A new Bible, framed certificated to hang on the wall, jewelry or any reminder of the decision made to follow Christ and be baptized.
- Invite family members and friends who have played a role in his spiritual development.

A New Life in Christ...Discipleship

After celebrating Milestone 2 with your child, there is such amazing joy in knowing he has become a follower of Jesus Christ. And his journey is only beginning. Preparing your child for the world to come and helping him or her become a man or woman of God will continue to require your very best.



1. **Continue Faith Talks** – Begin to steer faith talks to engage Milestone 3 in the life of your child. Resources are available in the Legacy Resource Center.
 - a. A great resource for introducing your child to a personal relationship of growth following her salvation is called, *God and Me*. It is available in the Legacy Resource Center.



2. **Continue to capitalize on God Moments!**
3. **Continue to celebrate future Milestones!**
4. **Continue to pray and lead your child to walk with Christ.**