

Milestone One: Family Dedication

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Ministry Department: Preschool

Target Audience: Birth through 4 years old

Campus Event: Family Dedication Ceremony

Class Description: Our Milestone One training introduces parents to the Legacy Path. We discuss what it means to be the Primary Faith Trainer in your home. The class is based upon our habits of REFLECT, TRAIN, and BLESS. We cover topics such as the blessing, core values, and boundaries. Parents will develop a Legacy Covenant that can be displayed in their home.

Time Requirement: 2 Hours

Training Support Required: Classroom with DVD player, screen, and white board

Handouts:

Family Freedom Ministry Booklet

"First Steps Toward Faith"

30 Days of Praying for Our Children

Stronghold Cycle

Resources:

God Knows My Name by Debby Anderson

You Have What It Takes: What Every Father Needs to Know by John Eldridge (provided to each family)

Legacy Path by Brian Haynes

Walls by Ryan Rush

The Blessing by John Trent

Milestone One is divided into 3 major sections:

Introduction

Main Topics

Bless

- Power of a Name
- Remember Forever

Train

- Core Values
- Boundaries
- Consequences

Reflect

- Family Traditions
- Freedom Ministry

Conclusion

Celebrate their first step on the Legacy Path

Review Resources

Cover admin requirements and due dates for pictures and Legacy Covenant in support of Family Dedication Ceremony.

Introduction

Introduce instructors and pray for the class

Welcome to Milestone One – Family Dedication!

Here is the first thing I want you to know! Your role as a parent is critical, it is challenging, but it is Biblical. Your instructions are here!

- *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*
- *Psalms 78: 5-7*

Our Role: Our Role at Kingsland is to equip you. What does that mean? It means that you are the A Team and we are the B Team. We believe that true discipleship is formed and carried out in the home. You are the PRIMARY FAITH TRAINER in your home.

Your Role: Review Role of Primary Faith Trainer

3 Key Tasks:

1. Share Faith Talks
2. Capture God Moments
3. Prepare for and Celebrate Milestones

Discuss / Review Legacy Path (Use handout to explain each one)

1. Family Dedication
2. Salvation & Baptism
3. Preparing for Adolescence
4. Purity for Life
5. Preparing for Adulthood
6. High School Graduation
7. Biblical Marriage

REVIEW RESOURCE: *The Legacy Path* by Brian Haynes

So here we are at Milestone One...What is Family Dedication All About?

The ceremony of family dedication follows in the spirit of these two texts. It is a time where parents decide to commit to raise their child in a God-honoring way.

1 Samuel 1:28: God blessed Hannah with a child and she dedicated him to the Lord, For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD.”

Luke 2:22: In this part of the gospel we see that Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple to be dedicated according to Hebrew Law.

You see, the ceremony is about you. Your child will never remember this day but they will remember what you write on their hearts. Today we are going to help guide you concerning a few things you will write on their hearts by looking at the habits of BLESS, TRAIN, and REFLECT.

Bless

Our goal with today’s class is to move from being a reaction-based parent to being an intentional parent. Let’s start with an illustration. “Funnel” (start with the end in mind).

Identity (the Blessing)

Remember 4 Ever

Core Values

Boundaries

Legacy Covenant

This is where our first role, our first habit comes in: **BLESS**

The word “Bless” literally means BREATHE IN.

As blessers we will be breathing value, purpose, and hope into their hearts. One way we did this was by naming our child.

We all chose the name of our kid for a special reason.

CLASS INTERACTION: Have a few families share how / why they named their kids. Share your personal story as well.

Reinforce the idea that names, whether good or bad, give people identity. Similarly, our words and actions, how we bless our kids does the same thing.

REVIEW RESOURCE: *You Have What It Takes: What Every Father Needs to Know* by John Eldridge (Provide each family a copy at this moment.)

This book is addressed to fathers but it is for both mom and dad.

Addresses two questions: *Boy – do I have what it takes? Girl – am I lovely?*

Just like you, your kids will ask this question in one form or another. They will look to many places for the answer. You have the ability, through your blessing, to answer this question for them and in doing so, point them back to their Heavenly Father.

Provide example of blessing in your home:

Brad's example: A couple of the ways we do this with our family is with two things Brad says to our boys on an almost daily basis:

If I lined up all the 8-year-olds in the world who would I pick? I would pick you. Teaches you are chosen!

Why do I love you? I am your son...simply because I am your son. Teaches unconditional acceptance.

When we bless our children, we bless who they are, NOT what they do.

REVIEW RESOURCE: *The Blessing* by John Trent

The 5 elements of the Blessing are:

1. Meaningful Touch
2. A Spoken Message
3. Attaching High Value
4. Picturing a Special Future
5. An Active Commitment

Closing of this section: Before our kids will understand boundaries or consequences they must know in their heart they are fully loved and accepted.

Train

As we transition to the next section based upon the habit of TRAIN the lessons will become more practical so we want to always be reminded of the big picture. Scripture gives us insight into how to be a Trainer. Most translations state the command to “train up a child.” The New Living Translation sheds light on the nuance of the original language.

Proverbs 22:6 – Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

Scripture implies that we may be rewarded when we train our children by directing them “onto the right path.” Sometimes we understand this to mean that we are to teach each child according to his / her specific learning style and personality. However, the most basic reading of the passage probably offers the best way of understanding it: we are to train our children in the way ALL children should go. There is a universally understood, God-inspired, right way and wrong way to live. We need to determine exactly what we are aiming towards as we raise our children.

Let’s start with the idea of Remember Forever’s - reference the first part of the funnel: the things you want your kids to remember and know the day they are driving off for “the last time”. Not all spiritual, some practical.

MEDIA Transition: Watch Ryley Rush Remember Forever DVD (approx. 4 min)

After the brief video give a few examples of your family Remember Forever's.

CLASS INTERACTION: Have the class take about 5 minutes to develop a few Remember Forever's as a couple.....then go around and share a few.

INSTRUCTOR NOTE: THIS MAY BE A GOOD TIME TO TAKE A BREAK

// Transition to Core Values //

A key tool for you as the Primary Faith Trainer is Family Core Values. Core Values are simply what matter most to your family.

Core Values flow out of our Remember Forever's and likewise our Boundaries flow out of our Core Values.

For example, you could have a Remember Forever of “Always Be a Great Friend.” This would easily translate to a Family Core Value of Compassion and then a follow-up Boundary of “We don’t hit” or “We use nice words.”

INSTRUCTOR NOTE: TAKE A MOMENT AND SHARE A FEW OF YOURS

CLASS INTERACTION: Have the class take about 5 minutes to develop 2 Core Values as a couple.....then go around and share a few

From our Core Values we see our boundaries are developed.

Practical Ways to Live Out the Role of Trainer with Boundaries

1. Explain the Why Behind Boundaries:

For example: Maybe you identified a Remember Forever to be sensitive to people who were hurting. That could translate to a Core Value of Compassion and in turn create a boundary of "we will not tolerate hurtful words in our home... OR we will not hit."

2. Invite your Children to Participate:

You will be surprised how bright your children's halo is when you ask them to help you.

3. Adjust the boundaries as Children mature:

In the beginning children are very concrete. In the early stages you are going to focus on behavior change, however in later stages you will focus on heart change.

We are focusing on boundaries for the entire family! That means us as well. Looking for 5 to 7.

CLASS INTERACTION: Have them take 5 minutes and develop 2 boundaries based upon their core values. Share with the group.

Reflect

What do you think of when you think of the word reflect?

First we are going to discuss how we naturally reflect some of the good and some of the bad from our parents.

What are some blessings or some habits you received from your parents or grandparents that you want to make part of your parenting? Some habits that you say, "I want to make that part of my parenting or part of my marriage."

Is there anything that you remember and say, "There's one thing I don't want to do with my kids"?

As we move from reflecting some of the good and bad from our parents we want to end by discussing how we reflect the image of God in our home.

The first way we do that is by understanding our role...Good parenting, which does what God intends, begins with this radical and humbling recognition that our children don't actually belong to us. Gospel based parenting begins with the understanding that our kids don't belong to us...Rather, that every child in every home belongs to the One who created that child. Children are God's possession (Ps 127:3).

So what is our role.....we are called to reflect the image of our Heavenly Father. As parents, we must realize that we have been put on earth at a particular time and in a particular location to do one thing in the lives of our children. What is that one thing? God's will. Here's what this means at the street level: parenting is not first about what we want for or from our children, but about what God in his grace has planned to do through our children.

One way we do this is by showing our children grace: God's plan is to make his invisible grace visible to children by sending parents of grace to give grace to children who need grace.

Reflecting God's image as a parent means we put our love for them into action by giving them
FREEDOM

First – we need to give our children the freedom to be different. We remind them that each of us is unique and God delights in them. Kids have their own identity. Of course, it is tied to ours, however it is also very unique to them.

Second – we need to give our children the freedom to be vulnerable. They need to know that they can be open hearted with their joy, fears, and pain...and that those feelings are safe for us.

Third – We need to give our children the freedom to be candid. That they can be honest about their fears and disappointments.

Finally – We need to give our kids the freedom to make mistakes. Even though there are boundaries and consequences, they need to know that our love for them is not based upon their behavior.

Lastly, as we examine what it means to reflect the image of God in our home we must realize that the enemy of our freedom and our child's freedom is the lies we believe.

REVIEW HANDOUT: The Stronghold Cycle

By clinging to God's promises and reflecting His image in our home, we can provide our children the freedom to be who God has created them to be.

Closing

Review all resources and handouts one more time.

Recap roles: Bless, Train, Reflect

Recap Legacy Path and re-affirm their role as Primary Faith Trainer.

Celebrate again their first step on the Legacy Path!

Close in prayer.