

Milestone Two: Salvation & Baptism

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Ministry Department: Children

Target Audience: Kinder thru 5th grade parents

Family Event: Baptism

Class Description: Our Milestone Two Training focuses on how to know when your child is ready to make a decision to accept Jesus as their Savior. We go over the procedure we use at Kingsland to walk beside you as your child prays and moves forward for baptism.

Time Requirement: 1.5-2 Hours

Training Support Required: Classroom with computer connection and display

Handouts:

"How Do I Specifically Lead My Child to Receive Jesus Christ?"

The ABC's of Salvation

"Why I Baptized My Daughter...Again" by Brian Haynes

Resources:

Parenting with Kingdom Purpose – Hamphill and Ross

Visionary Parenting – Dr. Rob Reinow

Big Truths for Young Hearts – Bruce A. Ware

Teaching Kids About God – Trent, Osborne and Bruner

The Most Important Place on Earth – Wolgemuth

The Way of the Master for Kids – Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort

Milestone Two is divided into 5 main questions:

Introduction

Main Questions

- What do they need to know?
- How do I teach that?
- What's the role of the Holy Spirit?
- How do I lead them to a decision?
- How do we celebrate the decision?

Conclusion

Introduction

Introduce instructors and pray for the class.

Welcome to Milestone Two – Salvation and Baptism

Our Role: Our role at Kingsland is to equip you to teach your child and lead them to a saving decision to submit their life to Jesus Christ

Your Role: Review Role of Primary Faith Trainer:

3 Key Tasks:

Share Faith Talks

Capture God Moments

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

Every Christian parent yearns for the day his child receives Christ as Savior. The implications are enormous and eternity hangs in the balance. This is literally 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.

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."**

How is your relationship with the Lord? You can't give away something you don't have. 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? 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).

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.

What do they need to know?

- ***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. The child shouldn't blame others for their own mistakes. Pray for forgiveness. Sin

separates us from God.

- ***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.
- ***What is Salvation?*** – It is a gift from God, from His grace, given to those who have faith or believe. (Ephesians 2:8-9) Kids need to know they NEED Jesus, not just to avoid hell.
- ***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, and their understanding will grow as they mature as believers.

How do I teach that?

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.

Parents wrestle with the two W's...Willing but Worried. We want to teach our children but we have some worries.

- I am not an expert on Christianity.*** Good! You will talk to your child in plain English and not get caught up in theology. This is a long process of continual conversation.
- I am not doing so well now with my walk with God.*** Our walk with God has ups and downs. As we are convicted to make changes, we do that and keep going. Kids can benefit from seeing you handle your doubts, frustrations and concerns with God's help.
- My child has the attention span of a Chihuahua on caffeine. He can't sit still long***

enough to listen. It is good to keep it short, sweet and bite-sized. Just choose your time wisely: car trips or even bedtime, songs on the radio, faith talk cards.

- D. ***I have to do this alone as a single parent or whose spouse is not a Christian or not at home.*** Consider inviting another parent and child to join you from time to time.

You are called to teach the truth of God to your children *diligently*. Here are some ideas to try:

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 frequently. Frequency and consistency open the door to spiritual conversations. Use Sunday sermons, song lyrics, Sunday School lessons, memory verses, Special Events at church, etc.
 - ***Conversational:*** According to their development, let the teaching time be a conversation and not simply a mini-sermon.
 - ***Scripture:*** God's Word changes your child!
 - ***Prayer:*** for and with your child a LOT!
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 is crucial. Make use of time in the car. You can listen to and discuss Christian music or get a kids' version of the Bible on tape.
 3. ***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 all programming. You have an opportunity to teach other kids about salvation as well.

What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

The desire to see children come to know Christ can place pressure on parents to “say the right things” and not make any mistakes. We only present the truth to our kids. Their decision is between them and God.

God moves in His own timing.

Isaiah 55:10-11 says,

¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

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! Pray...for your child and with your child. Teaching the truth has a partner called prayer. Parents’ intercession for their child is the most powerful tool they could ask for.

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. Also, your child may make a decision now and rededicate their life as a teen or adult. There is nothing wrong with that.

How do I lead them to a decision?

How do I know when?

Important things to look for:

- Children begin asking questions about spiritual things.
- 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 to their personal relationship to God.
- Are they old enough to remember their decision?
- Can they distinguish reality from fantasy?
- They keep pestering you.

When your child is repeatedly talking about salvation, be sure to capitalize on those questions. Use kid

friendly language. Words such as “born again” or “Jesus living in your heart” aren’t as clear as “Ask Jesus to be the boss of your life”.

Walk them through the following and be sure they 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.
 - Tell your child about sin that you struggle with
 - Ask your child to name sins they struggle with. If your child tries to make excuses for their sins, they may not feel conviction yet.
 - Ask your child what the result of sin is? – death, separation from God
3. ***What do we deserve?*** -- death and separation from God (Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”)
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?***
 - Repent. “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out...” Acts 3:19
 - 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
 - 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. Are you ready to let Jesus be your boss? The Bible doesn't include a specific "Sinner's Prayer". The words aren't as important as the condition of the heart. 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 questions such as:

- Where are your sins now? *Gone.*
- Where is Jesus or the Holy Spirit? *In my heart or soul; with me.*
- Will you still sin? *Yes.*
- If we still sin, what is different? *We now have the conviction of the Holy Spirit and we are forgiven.*

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

How do we celebrate?

Make this decision a big deal – it is the most important moment in your child's entire life!

- Take pictures!
- Share the news with family and friends.
- Share the news with your church family.

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."

Salvation is not dependent on baptism. Be sure your child understands that the moment they made the decision and prayed, the Holy Spirit moved in and they are saved from that moment on. Baptism is the party to celebrate the decision and a chance to share this decision with the world.

Each of the Legacy Milestones includes a family celebration or event to mark the importance of passing through each life marker. Here are some ideas for celebrating their decision and baptism.

- 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 certificate to hang on the wall, jewelry or any reminder of the decision made to follow Christ and be baptized.
- Frame a picture of all the family and friends at the baptism.
- Invite family members and friends who have played a role in his spiritual development.

Conclusion

Once your child has made a decision to give their life to Christ, your job changes to that of a discipler. You will continue faith talks and God moments and encourage your child to grow in their faith. You will continue to teach them what it means to be a Christian. Their understanding will deepen as they mature.