# **Milestones Ministry Manual**

For Home and Congregation

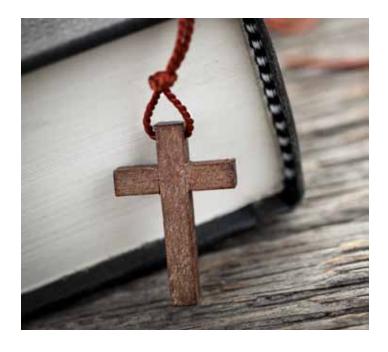
Series A

Child and Youth Milestones

## **User Guide**



www.milestonesministry.org



### **Milestones Ministry Modules**

Milestones Ministry provides a clear and usable model for congregations, homes, and communities to connect faith formation resources with daily life experiences. Each Milestone Ministry module features a consist outline that provides the opportunity for the congregation to grow in faith through the Four Key faith practices of Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions.

Every time a milestone is experienced, the modules offer planning tips and reinforcement ideas to help guide people in essential faith practices both in the congregation and at home. The modules place tools in the hands of parents and other caring adults who play an active role in the faith lives of children and youth in their congregations and surrounding communities. The intent is that celebrating these milestones becomes a way of life for people and outreach for congregations.

#### Overview

Each module begins with an overview, featuring bullet points for desired outcomes and a brief explanation of the content. The overview also includes a description of the Four Key faith practices embedded in each event.

Each module lists the benefits of celebrating milestones in the home and congregation and identifies the elements of making a milestone (naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing). Ideas for reinforcement and a "check-in" activity are included as a way to provide accountability and ongoing support.

### **Planning and Leadership Tips**

Each module provides leader notes and suggestions for planning and preparing the milestone event.

#### Cross+Generational Event

Each module provides a detailed description on how to host a Cross+Generational milestone event, using a Four Keys outline as well as Scripture and content based on the topic of each milestone. Cross+Generational events provide the congregation with an opportunity to get to know one another in a new way, celebrate milestones for all ages, and be actively involved in faith formation.

## **Worship and Blessing**

The component offers a litany, blessing and gift to be included in a worship service. In most Milestones Ministry modules, the worship opportunity follows the Cross+Generational event. The recognition, special blessing, and support from the congregation are wonderful ways to honor the milestones in our lives.

## For Small Groups or the Home

There are times when celebrating a milestone can be done in a small group setting or more intimately in homes. Small group participation is facilitated by using the Four Key faith practices. Those choosing to use this outline can also glean ideas from the Cross+Generational event and the Worship and Blessing section.

## Milestones Ministry as Evangelical Outreach

Outreach into the community is a major gift of Milestones Ministry. These milestones are written with the larger community in mind. More and more, congregations are exploring ways to include non-members in Milestones Ministry opportunities. It is a lifelong faith formation ministry that can serve and bless other people besides congregational members. Does a third grader have to be a member of the congregation or part of the Sunday school class to get a new Bible and learn how to read it at home on a regular basis? We don't think so. As your congregational leaders make plans to implement Milestones Ministry, please consider ways to reach out to those in the surrounding neighborhoods and bless them with the life and faith of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Follow-Up

An important step after role modeling the Four Keys in a Cross+Generational or small group setting is to bless and equip families to continue practicing faith by using the Four Keys in their homes. The follow-up gathering brings those who participated in a particular milestone together again to help them continue to build relationships and facilitate the Four Keys as an intentional step to encourage faith formation in the congregations and in the home.

## **Appendix**

The Appendix provides suggested gifts and customizable invitations for each milestone as well as online links for additional materials and resources.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- **1 FaithChest Milestone:** Passing on Faith
- **2 Baptism Milestone:** *The Beginning Point of Nurturing a Faith Life*
- **3 Anniversary of Baptism Milestone:** Remembering Our Way of Life
- **4 Prayer Milestone:** *Relationships with God and Family*
- 5 Welcoming Young Children to Worship Milestone: An Intentional Invitation
- **6 Entering Sunday School Milestone:** First Steps for a Young Child
- **7 Kids and Money Milestone:** *Good Stewards of God's Gifts*
- 8 Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone: A Fall Milestone for All Ages
- **9 Communion Milestone:** Learning More about the Lord's Supper
- **10 Bible Milestone:** *Placing Scripture in Hands and Homes*
- **11 Bible Camp Milestone:** Feeling God's Comfort in Outdoor Ministry
- **12 My Body, God's Gift Milestone:** *Sexuality as God's Good Gift*
- **Middle School Milestone:** Created in God's Image
- **14 Beginning Confirmation Milestone:** *Walking with Youth on Their Faith Journeys*
- **15 Confirmation Milestone:** An Evening of Honor
- **16 Drivers License Milestone:** *Driver's License as a Rite of Passage*
- **Mission Trip Milestone:** Community Blessings at Home and Away
- **18 High School Graduation Milestone:** *Equipping Graduates for the Journey*



Milestones Ministry, LLC is excited about the newly updated features of our Series A - Child and Youth Milestones Manual. We look forward to hearing how Milestones Ministry has transformed faith formation in your congregations and homes.

Please share your stories at: info@milestonesministry.org

## Milestones Ministry Manual

### For Home and Congregation

Series A

Child and Youth Milestones

Milestones Ministry, LLC is grateful to the following authors who have contributed to our 2015 Child and Youth Milestones:

David Anderson
Neil Christians
Pat Eidsness
Katherine Eisele
Dianne Helfinstine
Mandy Houghton
Julie Luttinen Miller
Angie Smith
Susan F. Sprowls
Kim Stoddard
Bobbie Tomasek

### Published by Milestones Ministry, LLC.

Revisions and updates edited by:

David Anderson Debbie Streicher Burton Streicher Patty Matthews Jen Leonardson Kerri Hines Jeff Needham

**Mary Tranberg** 

Design and graphics by Jen Leonardson with Oxyjen Designs Page Layout by Jen Leonardson, Patty Matthews, and Debbie Streicher Cover design by Jeff Needham and Patty Matthews

#### © Copyright 2015 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

Handouts necessary for the implementation of the program may be reproduced for use as part of individual Milestones Ministry events.

Reproduction for resale or use in paid presentations is strictly prohibited.

Scripture quotations contained herein are from the Contemporary English Version Bible © Copyright 1995 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

Contact information: info@milestonesministry.org

Order Milestones Ministry resources at www.milestonesministry.org