

CHURCH IN THE VINEYARD



MILESTONES

CTV Milestones

mile•stone /'mīl,stōn/ (noun)

A significant or important event in history, in the career of a person; a turning point.

By Pastor Johnny Johnston

Child/Baby Dedication

This Milestone involves parents making a public pledge to raise their kids in a way that will honor God. There is a service where the parents read a letter they have written to their child and then the congregation prays for them.

Resources:

- *Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide* by Dr. James Dobson
- *God and Me!: Devotions for Girls: Ages 2-5* by Lynn Marie-Ittner Klammer
- *Gotta Have God: Fun Devotions for Boys: Ages 2-5* by Lynn Marie Ittner Klammer.
- *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity* by Reggie Joiner and Carey Niewhof
- *Faith Begins at Home* by Mark Holmer

Baptism

The Baptism Milestone is where a person makes a public statement of wanting to follow Jesus. They read a testimony (or a letter to God for the younger ones) and then we perform a baptism ceremony out back in the pool. This happens the weekend after Labor Day every year.

Resources (for parents):

- *Gotta Have God: Cool Devotions for Boys: Ages 6-9* by Diane Cory
- Parent Link: Online monthly newsletter for families at www.theparentlink.com
- *The Story of Me* by Stan Jones, Brenda Jones, and Joel Spector
- *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity* by Reggie Joiner and Carey Niewhof
- *Faith Begins at Home* by Mark Holmer

Preparing for Adolescence

This Milestone prepares your children to walk through their teenage years. This Milestone will happen sometime around 4th, 5th, or 6th grade depending on the maturity of your child (some will need it sooner than others). There is a focus on physical, social, emotional, and spiritual changes.

Resources:

- *How and When to Tell Your Kids about Sex: A Lifelong Approach to Shaping Your Child's Sexual Character* by Brenda Jones and Stan Jones
- *Logged On and Tuned Out: A Non-Techie's Guide to Parenting a Tech-Savvy Generation* by Vicki Courtney
- *Preparing for Adolescence* (Family CD Repack): *How to Survive the Coming Years of Change* by James Dobson
- *Hurt 2.0: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers* by Chap Clark
- *Disconnected: Parenting Teens in a MySpace World* by Chap Clark and Dee Clark
- *Five Conversations You Must Have with Your Daughter* by Vicki Courtney
- *Questions You Can't Ask Your Mama about Sex* by Craig Gross and Mike Foster
- *Youth Culture 101* by Walt Mueller
- *Dateable* by Justin Lookadoo and Hayley DiMarco

Passage to Adulthood

This Milestone takes place sometime between ages 14-16 (again, depends on the kid). This Milestone highlights the importance of what it means to be Man or Woman of God. As a parent you will set up a Rite of Passage Ceremony to recognize the importance of your child growing up and becoming an adult. See Pastor Chip's Adulthood Milestone as an example.

Resources:

- *The Five Love Languages of Teenagers* by Gary Chapman
- *Raising a Modern-Day Knight: A Father's Role in Guiding His Son to Authentic Manhood* by Robert Lewis
- *Parent's Guide to the Spiritual Mentoring of Teens* by Joe White and Jim Weidmann
- *Hurt 2.0: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers* by Chap Clark
- *Disconnected: Parenting Teens in a MySpace World* by Chap Clark and Dee Clark
- *Teenage Guys* by Steve Gerali
- *Teenage Girls* by Ginny Olson

Preparing Your Child to Leave Home

Graduation from High School marks a natural Milestone. Whatever comes next it will be very different from grade school. Preparing them for this Milestone is critical to the rest of their life. There will be a focus on readying your child to make decisions in their life that please God and show His love to others.

Resources:

- *The Blessing* by Gary Smalley and John Trent
- *How to Stay Christian in College* by J. Budziszewski
- *Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living* by Cornelius Pltantina, Jr.
- *The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness* by Donald Opitz and Derek Melleby

Church Membership

This Milestone is a formal and ceremonial way to say what's inside a person's heart. The Membership Milestone is twofold: A person is stating, once again, their commitment to God and to CTV.

Resources:

- *Dangerous Surrender* by Kay Warren
- *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* By Philip Yancey
- *What's So Amazing About Grace?* By Philip Yancey
- *Revolutionary Parenting: What the Research Shows Really Works* by George Barna
- *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* by Rob Bell

