



Bible Milestone

In this Milestones Ministry event, children, parents/guardians and other caring adults are brought together around God’s Word as they use, read, study and play in the Bible. In this way, children not only receive Bibles, but also are encouraged to use them together with their families.

In recent generations in the life of the church, the use of the Bible in the home and in daily life has become less apparent. Not only is the American culture less familiar with the stories, guidance and faith statements of Scripture, but so is the church culture. It could even be argued that the thoughts, conversations and decisions of those who teach Sunday school and confirmation or attend church council meetings and annual congregational meetings are not substantially based on the biblical testimony and guidance. For many Christians in the church, the Bible has become an endangered species, something rarely spotted or referenced.

The Bible Milestone is based on the understanding that the Bible is an essential source of comfort and guidance for individual Christians and the larger church. Giving Bibles to children in worship has become, for many congregations, an endearing and memorable moment.

This Bible Milestone incorporates a simple structure that includes:





Naming – It is important to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of children and parents/guardians as a faith formation tool in the congregation and in the home.

Equipping – Children and parents/guardians are invited to gather together around God’s Word as they use, read, study and play in the Bible. There is encouragement to use Bibles together as families.

Blessing – The blessing for those participating in this milestone provides a reinforcement and special time to encourage using the Bible together as a family.

Gifting – You may give a visible item as a physical reminder of this occasion, such as a Bible of your choosing. (See Appendix 1 for more ideas.)

Reinforcing – Follow up after the Bible Milestone by connecting one more time to explore how using Bibles at home can have a positive impact on the faith and daily life of the home. The Bible Milestone Follow Up is on page 7.

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|  |  | Four Keys for Practicing Faith |  |  |
| Caring Conversations | Devotions | | Service | Rituals and Traditions |



+ Milestone Event for Small Groups or Home

There are times when celebrating a milestone can be done in a small group setting, or more intimately, in homes. Take time to enjoy a meal or dessert together and to invite conversation with the following outline. You may also wish to use portions of the Cross+Generational Event found in this Bible Milestone.



Caring Conversations

Begin with conversation:

- What are some questions about God and the Christian faith that you want to learn more about by reading the Bible?
- What questions do you have about the Bible?
- What book of the Bible do you know about or what story do you know? Talk for a few minutes about what you know and remember.



Devotions

Read Scripture: Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk.

Take some time to answer these questions:

- What word jumps out when you read this verse? Why?
- Turn the lights out for a minute. How did you feel in the dark? When you turn the lights on again, how do you feel?
- Have you ever compared God's Word to the light given by a lamp? How does God's Word help you see?



Service

Consider the following:

- Who could partner with you at home to read the different books in the Bible, including the introductory paragraphs describing that book?
- Will you make a commitment to read the Bible regularly at home?
- Talk about why it is important to read the Bible at home.



Rituals and Traditions

Make a commitment to read the Bible every day for a month. Decide on a time of day that works best for you and your family. Select a book of the Bible to read, or choose some other goal for choosing texts for daily reading. Begin by opening the Bible now and highlighting or underlining today's verse. Use the *Bible Basics* booklet as a guide to learn more about the Bible at home.

Pray together: Open the Bible to Luke 11:2-4 and read:
So Jesus told them, "Pray in this way. Father, help us to honor your name. Come and set up your kingdom. Give us each day the food we need. Forgive our sins, as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us. And keep us from being tempted. Amen."
 (CEV translation)

Bless one another: *"May you know God's Word will light your way."*

Resources and tools to encourage faith talk and faith practices in the home are helpful and remind us that home is church, too!

A suggestion for building rituals and traditions in the home:

Four Keys Faith Practices Mat



Place a candle in the center

Place the Milestones Blessing Bowl in the center



Add a milestone to the bowl to encourage caring conversations

