

User Guide

Adult Milestones Ministry

for Home and Congregation



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 Milestones Ministry module features a consistent outline that provides the opportunity for the congregation to grow in faith through the Four Keys 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 Keys faith practices embedded in each event.

Each module lists the benefits of celebrating milestones in the home and congregation and identifies the elements of marking a milestone (**nam**ing, **equ**ipping, **bl**essing, **g**ifting and **re**inforcing). 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

This 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 uplift 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 Keys 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 as developed by Vibrant Faith Ministries. 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 traditions in the congregation 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.



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