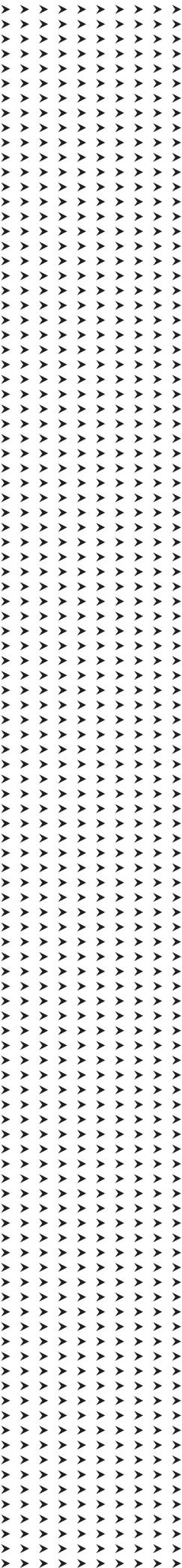


# MILESTONES

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE FROM BIRTH THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL





# MILESTONES

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# WELCOME TO ROCKY CREEK FAMILY MINISTRY

We delight in our roles as your family ministry partners. We are passionate about Christ and the commands of Scripture to teach the Bible to our Rocky Creek children (Deuteronomy 6, Psalm 78, and Ephesians 6:4). While we are eager to accomplish that assignment in our own homes, we are also eager to walk beside you as you disciple your child toward maturity in Christ.

We take our calls to parenting and ministry seriously. In this resource, we desire to detail our Family Ministry plan to allow you to see a progression of spiritual milestones from birth through college as your child matures in his or her faith. Our goal with this resource is to help you as a parent discover realistic, spiritual goals for your child and to provide you with the resources to make you successful in guiding your child spiritually. If you have any questions or a ministry need, please contact us.

We desire to see your children trust Christ for salvation, go with a commission to reach the world for Christ, make a commitment to serve others, obey the commandment to make continual progress in spiritual growth, and have communion with Jesus in worship with Him and His church. Let us know how we can support your family as you grow in your faith.

The Rocky Creek Family Ministry Team  
Lindsay Smoak • Preschool Coordinator  
Joy Emery • Ministry Coordinator  
Marty Miller • Student Pastor

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Matthew 28:19-20**

# MILESTONE MARKERS

## FAMILIES CELEBRATE

*There are markers along the path that serve as celebrations as your child progresses in a faith walk. Some of these markers happen as your child comes of age. Other markers will happen as your child becomes spiritually aware of his need for Christ and salvation. A parent should not expect a certain age to be the expected moment for a spiritual decision to happen in a child's life. Instead, a parent should look for readiness and a child's personal conviction of sin and separation from God.*

### BEGINNING

#### **FAMILY DEDICATION**

The family dedication event is for members of Rocky Creek to celebrate the birth of their child while making a covenant promise along with the church family to nurture the child in the Christian faith. Parents choose a Bible verse to be a guiding life verse to pray over their child. Parents receive a sealed letter to be opened and read at the time the child makes a personal decision to follow Christ as a believer.

### WISDOM

#### **GRADUATION TO CHILDREN'S AREA**

As the child moves to the children's ministry area, there is a special celebration for the first grader and the first grader's family to prepare the child for moving from worship with peers in the preschool area to corporate worship with the church body. The child receives a notebook to help prioritize the Bible study lessons taught on Sunday and to provide a place to keep sermon notes along with discipleship and missions pages. Parents receive resources to assist them with engaging a child in worship.

## FAITH

### SALVATION AND RE-BIRTHDAYS

In the children's ministry area, children who show interest in becoming a Christian are counseled by the children's minister in the presence of family members. All family members who have previously made decisions to follow Christ are encouraged to share their salvation stories during the counseling session. The child is given the freedom to share with his or her family when ready to make a personal decision for Christ. Parents are encouraged to mark and celebrate the day of their child's salvation each year with gifts that encourage spiritual development. If the date cannot be specifically determined, the child is encouraged to celebrate the baptism day as the re-birthday.

### BAPTISM

Baptism follows a clear decision to follow Christ. Children explore the baptismal area prior to baptism day. Family members are encouraged to invite extended family, friends, and those who have participated in and watched the child's progress in his or her spiritual journey to attend the child's baptism. Baptism is a spiritual marker to be remembered with special notes and letters from family members. Capture the baptism day with pictures and videos of the special celebration.

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Upon completion of a Next Steps New Member class (either in a large group setting or in a personal appointment), a child is allowed to sign a membership covenant upon completion of the class and baptism. A parent also signs the child's membership covenant as a way of affirming the child's decision and agreeing that the child is ready to take that step of obedience. The parent is encouraged to guide the child as he or she participates in church-related decisions.

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

After a child's profession of faith (regardless of whether or not baptism and church membership steps have been completed), he or she is welcome to participate in the celebration of the Lord's Supper as a time of remembrance of Jesus' life, burial, and resurrection. Prior to the first Lord's Supper, parents are encouraged to share the importance and meaning of the Lord's Supper with the child who is participating as a believer. Siblings not partaking of the Lord's Supper are encouraged to wait until they, too, make a personal profession of faith.

## IDENTITY

### GRADUATION TO THE STUDENT AREA

Fifth graders begin their journey to the student ministry area by moving to the student area for their VBS sessions. Fifth graders are bridged to the student ministry area with a planned event. Both students and parents are encouraged as children move and assimilate into the student ministry.

### PATHWAYS TO PURITY

The children's ministry area gives parents resources to begin thinking about how to have conversations regarding purity and puberty. Ministry leaders are available to help reinforce those conversations with age-appropriate support. Suggested resources include: *The Learning About Sex Series* from Concordia Publishers which provides a helpful seven-book progression from age 3 through the teen years. *Passport to Purity* for the talk. *True Love Waits* for personal commitment.

## FREEDOM

### DRIVER'S LICENSE

Student ministry leaders assist parents in conversations with their teens regarding freedom gained with license. Ministry leaders support contract development in having teens agree with God-honoring behaviors while in command of vehicles.

### CELL PHONE

Parents receive resources to help them guide their children through their personal accountability regarding having a phone in their possession. Teens are encouraged to honor God, to honor others, and to protect their own hearts when using cell phones.

### DATING

Parents and students receive resources to help understand biblical principles of dating.

## LAUNCH

### LIFE MISSION

Graduates are encouraged to adopt a life verse that gives direction for their mission in life. They are encouraged to live out their life verse and mission to make disciples for Christ.

### COMMISSION/GRADUATION

Graduates are commissioned as they mark a milestone in their lives to live boldly for Christ, taking all that has been taught to them at home and at church. Graduates are recognized for their completion of High School. During this event they are challenged to live out their faith boldly as they embark on a new milestone in their life. Graduates are encouraged to begin assimilating into the college ministry at church and on their college campuses.





# MISSIONS

## COMMISSION TO

### THE WORLD



# MISSIONS

## YOUNGER PRESCHOOLERS

- Observes people on mission when they care for me at church
- Hears parents and leaders praying for missionaries
- Prays out loud (with help) for missionaries
- Sees maps and pictures of places around the world where people are on mission
- Hears about missionaries

## OLDER PRESCHOOLERS

- Observes people on mission when they care for me at church
- Watches videos about people being on mission
- Prays out loud for missionaries
- Sees maps and pictures of places around the world where people are on mission
- Knows what a missionary does
- Serves in mission activities with parents

# EVANGELISM

- Knows that Jesus loves and cares for people
- Hears that God sent His Son Jesus because He cares for people
- Begins to understand disobedience as sin



## MISSIONS

- Learns about the International Mission Board
- Learns about the North American Mission Board
- Learns about the Cooperative Program and Baptist Associations
- Meets both IMB and NAMB missionaries in person
- Participates in mission projects in the community with their parents
- Prays for missionaries on their birthdays
- Participates as a fifth grader in feeding the homeless
- Participates in gathering offerings for Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong
- Answers questions about Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong

## EVANGELISM

- Understands that all people sin and are separated from God
- Knows that God forgives people of sin
- Knows the ABC's of becoming a Christian
- Has opportunities to make a personal decision to follow Christ
- Uses a personal testimony to invite others to celebrate their baptism
- Shares a simple plan of evangelism with another



## MISSIONS

- Serves at the local Greenville soup kitchen
- Expected participation in a Christian organization at their middle school campuses
- Serves the local church through various local missional opportunities
- Watches videos about missionaries and missional organizations
- Participates in gathering offerings for Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong
- Participates in various Rocky Creek mission ministries or partnerships

## EVANGELISM

- Learns how to share their personal faith in Christ
- Memorizes Bible verses pertaining to salvation in order to share their faith with their peers
- Learns how to share their faith through simple conversations at school and in everyday life
- Watches leaders model how to share their faith with others
- Practices sharing their faith with their peers
- Expected to share their faith and salvation story with at least five friends by their eighth grade year



## MISSIONS

- Serves in North American missions out of the state
- Participates in church sponsored missions locally and nationally
- Watches videos about missionaries and missional organizations
- Participates in gathering offerings for Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong

## EVANGELISM

- Knows how to share their personal faith in Christ
- Models sharing their faith with younger students
- Models and practices use of evangelistic tools to help share their faith.
- Knows different evangelistic methods to use in different circumstances
- Shares their faith and salvation story with at least five friends by their senior year





# MINISTRY

COMMITMENT TO  
THE CHURCH



## TITHING

### YOUNGER PRESCHOOLERS

- Learns what a tithe and offering is
- Practices giving by placing pretend money in an offering box

### OLDER PRESCHOOLERS

- Practices giving by placing pretend money in an offering box
- Learns where the money goes after it's given to the church
- Knows that tithing is an act of worship
- Develops a desire to give to those in need and to give to the church

## SERVING AT CHURCH

### YOUNGER PRESCHOOLERS

- Observes people serving in the preschool area

### OLDER PRESCHOOLERS

- Knows names of leaders who serve at Rocky Creek
- Encourages church leaders by drawing and writing encouraging notes
- Encourages senior adults and David's Table on special occasions

## FELLOWSHIP

- Attends a regular Gospel Group with peers
- Participates in kids worship with peers
- Begins to see community as a necessary part of life
- Trusts the church community to care for their needs



## TITHING

- Understands that all resources belong to God
- Prepares a tithe at times when money is earned or money is given to them
- Participates in the offering time by thanking God for personal resources
- Asks God to bless the offering that is given to the church
- Understands that the church gathers offerings and joins with Southern Baptist churches to cooperate together through the Cooperative Program
- Understands that the church uses a budget to be good stewards of the tithe
- Develops a generous heart toward giving to the church, missions, and those in need

## SERVING AT CHURCH

- Identifies ministers who serve at Rocky Creek
- Serves with Secret Mission Projects in the spring
- Embraces opportunities to serve at church alongside parents
- Serves in worship by praying, helping with the offering, and holding doors

## FELLOWSHIP

- Attends a regular Gospel Group with peers
- Participates in corporate worship with family
- Builds community with those who sit near them in worship
- Identifies with Rocky Creek as their church family
- Invites friends to attend church with them
-



## TITHING

- Reads and discusses the meaning and importance of tithing in the local church
- Learns the biblical support and foundations for tithing
- Gives to local and global missions
- Gives to various ministries and charities

## SERVING AT CHURCH

- Serves alongside the ministers who serve at Rocky Creek
- Serves in various ministries such as Vacation Bible School, mission projects, recreational ministries, Preschool Ministry, Children's Ministry or any other Rocky Creek sponsored ministry
- Finds areas of service within the church where their gifts can grow such as age-appropriate outreach projects and church or small group sponsored mission activities

## FELLOWSHIP

- Attends a regular Gospel Group with peers
- Participates in corporate worship with family or friends
- Builds community with those who sit near them in worship
- Identifies with Rocky Creek as their church family
- Invites friends to attend church with them
- Attends Storehouse on Wednesday night and participates in worship, Bible study, and fellowship
- Participates in Gospel Group activities that are planned throughout the year to build relationships



## TITHING

- Learns the biblical support and foundations for tithing
- Practices tithing through the local church
- Gives to local and global missions
- Gives to various ministries and charities

## SERVING AT CHURCH

- Serves in various ministries such as Vacation Bible School, Preschool Ministry, Children's Ministry, Student Worship Band, or any other Rocky Creek sponsored ministry
- Finds areas of service within the church where their gifts can be matured, such as music, greeting, or teaching a student small group

## FELLOWSHIP

- Attends a regular Gospel Group with peers
- Participates in corporate worship with family or friends
- Builds community with those who sit near them in worship
- Identifies with Rocky Creek as their church family
- Invites friends to attend church with them
- Attends Storehouse on Wednesday night and participates in worship, Bible study, and fellowship
- Participates in Gospel Group activities that are planned throughout the year to build relationships





# DISCIPLESHIP

## COMMANDMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP



# BIBLE FACTS & SKILLS

## YOUNGER PRESCHOOLERS

- Hears about main Bible characters and their key role/actions
- Hears key Bible verses
- Knows that the Bible is God's Word and everything in it is true
- Hears and repeats Bible verses
- Holds the Bible and looks at pictures of Jesus and main Bible characters

## OLDER PRESCHOOLERS

- Identifies main Bible characters after their roles are described
- Quotes key Bible verses and references
- Sings key Bible verses
- Learns key words: Parables, Miracle, Disciple, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Creation, Sin, Forgiveness, Sacrifice, Gospel
- Sings the Old Testament books (in order)
- Sings the New Testament books (in order)
- Sings the 10 Commandments (in order)
- Knows there are 66 books in the Bible
- Knows who wrote the first 5 books of the Bible
- Knows the 4 Gospels and what Gospel means
- Begins to learn how to flip the pages of the Bible in order to find books in the Bible
- Knows God speaks to us when we read the Bible

## BIBLICAL APPLICATION & AUTHORITY

- Hears Bible verses that relate to their everyday activities
- Understands that the Bible helps people know how to live
- Understands the parent is the authority in the home

# BIBLE FACTS & SKILLS

## YOUNGER CHILDREN

- Knows the ABC's of becoming a Christian
- Defines the Gospel and names the Gospel books
- Tells where the Creation Story is located in Genesis
- Knows that the Psalms are songs about God
- Quotes up to 12 verses
- Memorizes the Books of the Bible in order
- Locates the two main parts of the Bible - Old and New Testaments
- Pronounces the names of all the books of the Bible
- Reads references and locates specific verses or passages
- Knows that the Bible is God's Word and was written by men who were inspired by God

## OLDER CHILDREN

- Begins to understand that God is their authority and deals with them on a personal basis.
- Shares a simple plan of salvation with others
- Locates and memorizes The Model Prayer (Matthew 6 and Luke 11)
- Locates and memorizes the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
- Locates and tells about the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5, Luke 6)
- Quotes up to 25-50 verses
- Knows the books of the Bible by division
- Identifies if a book is in the Old or New Testament
- Locates all the books of the Bible in a specific time frame
- Tells others the meaning of a biblical verse or passage
- Understands a biblical timeline of historical events
- Can read smaller individual books of the Bible

# BIBLICAL APPLICATION & AUTHORITY

## YOUNGER CHILDREN

- Hears Bible stories and relates to those in the stories
- Knows that the Bible gives instructions and rules for daily living
- Uses the Bible as a personal guide to daily living
- Sees discipline in Scripture and life as an act of love
- Understands that the parent is the authority in the home and that God is the parent's authority

## OLDER CHILDREN

- Hears Bible stories and sees personal application
- Seeks to live out the truths from Scripture in a personal walk with Christ
- Begins to live out truths of Scripture as personal convictions
- Uses Scripture passages to help make decisions
- Begins to understand that God is their authority and deals with them on a personal basis





## BIBLE FACTS & SKILLS

- Knows the major themes and stories through the Old and New Testament
- Identifies the divisions of the Old Testament /New Testament and learns specific information about both the Old and New Testaments
- Knows simple theological doctrines (e.g. God, Salvation, Jesus' Ministry)
- Reads through the Old Testament
- Memorizes key Old Testament Scriptures
- Learns how to grow in Christ through daily quiet times and prayer

## BIBLICAL APPLICATION & AUTHORITY

- Lives out the truth from Scriptures as they learn to grow in Christ
- Memorizes Scripture and applies to daily life
- Grows in their understanding of God's Word through daily quiet times and reflection



## BIBLE FACTS & SKILLS

- Knows the major themes of the stories and theology of the Old and New Testament
- Able to identify specific stories and themes throughout the Old Testament and New Testament
- Able to locate the books of the Law, Poetry, Minor Prophets, Major Prophets, Gospels, Epistles
- Learns how to apply theological doctrines to daily life
- Reads though the New Testament
- Memorizes key New Testament Scriptures
- Leads a small accountability group for the purpose of discipleship
- Leads others to grow in Christ (Relational Intentional Discipleship)
- Understands that discipleship is growing in Christ and showing others how to grow in Christ

## BIBLICAL APPLICATION & AUTHORITY

- Able to use specific verses to apply to life decisions such as ethical and moral decisions
- Continues to memorize Scripture for growth in Christ
- Helps others grow in their relationship with Christ
- Helps others memorize Scripture and apply it to life situations





**WORSHIP**  
**COMMUNION WITH**  
**JESUS**



# PRAYER

## YOUNGER

- Hears leaders and parents pray
- Begins to pray out loud on their own
- Understands that prayer helps us communicate with God
- Discovers that prayer can be anytime, anywhere, out loud, or silent
- Learns to be respectful and quiet during prayer

## OLDER

- Learns the Five Finger Prayer Method: Praise God, Confess sins, Thank God, Pray for others, Pray for self
- Understands that God hears all prayers and answers with a yes, no, or wait
- Prays out loud and silently

# QUIET TIME

## YOUNGER

- Observes parents having their quiet times with their Bibles
- Experiences prayer and short devotion with parents before bed

## OLDER

- Observes parents having their quiet times with their Bibles
- Participates in prayer and short devotionals with parents before bed
- Begins to read the Bible and pray alone

# WORSHIP

## YOUNGER

- Sings songs to the Lord
- Repeats the weekly Bible verse
- Learns that singing songs to the Lord and saying verses out loud brings Him joy

## OLDER

- Learns and sings songs to the Lord with hand motions
- Memorizes key Bible verses and recites them every week
- Knows that singing songs to the Lord and memorizing Scripture brings Him joy
- Learns that obeying the Lord is an act of worship



# PRAYER

- Uses the ACTS model for prayer
- Uses a prayer list for prayer requests
- Designs a prayer plan appropriate for age
- Locates the Model Prayer in Matthew 6 and Luke 11
- Designs a prayer list with parents regarding obedience, identity, discipleship, and personal walk with Christ

# QUIET TIME

## YOUNGER

- Uses the Bible for daily Bible reading with parental help
- Uses at least one Bible verse as part of a quiet time reading
- Spends at least five minutes reading, praying, and reflecting on a passage of Scripture

## OLDER

- Establishes a personal discipline of a daily quiet time
- Uses a passage of 4 or more verses as part of a quiet time reading
- Spends at least fifteen minutes reading, praying, and reflecting on a passage of Scripture

# WORSHIP

## YOUNGER

- Moves from worship with peers to worship with family in corporate worship
- Sits and stands as the congregation sits and stands during corporate worship
- Participates in worship by singing
- Engages in worship by filling in sermon notes
- Understands the Lord's Supper is a celebration of Jesus' life, burial, resurrection
- Understands the ordinance of baptism

## OLDER

- Expects to hear something in worship to apply to daily life
- Captures sermon notes and stores them in a way to reflect on sermon notes with family
- Participates in all aspects of worship
- Expects to meet someone new in worship each week



## PRAYER

- Prays through Scripture passages as part of their quiet time
- Designs a prayer plan appropriate for age
- Designs a prayer list with parents regarding friends, boundaries, obedience, and discipleship

## QUIET TIME

- Establishes a consistent daily quiet time
- Learns how to memorize Scripture and apply it to life situations
- Verbalizes growth from God's Word through quiet time

## WORSHIP

- Participates in worship on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings
- Engages in worship led by the student worship team and any age-appropriate worship activities
- Learns the importance of small groups and its relationship to discipleship and worship



## PRAYER

- Designs a prayer plan for personal discipleship
- Develops initiative in asking others to share prayer requests
- Designs a prayer list with parents regarding future spouses, education, and future independence

## QUIET TIME

- Continues in their established daily quiet time for further spiritual growth
- Grows in knowledge and understanding of Scripture and is able to apply it to life situations

## WORSHIP

- Learns that giving, service, and decisions are acts of worship
- Serves with the student worship team
- Considers serving with the Student Worship Band or Music Ministry



*You are not left alone without resources. By visiting us online, you can gain access to our growing library of resources for your family to use to guide your child through his or her spiritual development.*

## **MY SPIRITUAL MILESTONES**

In addition to "Milestones," an interactive, companion book, "My Spiritual Milestones" is available. If you have not received a copy, please contact one of our age-group ministry leaders. A digital copy is also available online to print at home.

## **PRINTABLE RESOURCES**

Our digital library of resources contains many resources you can print at home. Many of these resources including "Bible Memory Cards" and "Big Picture Questions" align with Rocky Creek's Bible study curriculum.

## **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

We have books and websites listed online to help parents tackle various concerns. These resources support discipleship in the home and are from trusted ministry sources. If you have additional recommended resources, please share those with your ministry leaders so we can continue to add to our resource lists.

ACCESS THE DIGITAL LIBRARY AT  
**ROCKYCREEK.CHURCH**

