

**SIGNIFICANCE + GOAL
OF THE MILESTONE:**

The Family Dedication is more than a church tradition - it's the first step in parenting with a lifelong plan. This milestone equips parents as primary disciple makers, helps establish intentional spiritual rhythms, and connects families with a supportive community.

SESSION TOPICS:

- 1** This Phase and Stage
- 2** Biblical Foundation for Parenting
- 3** Encouragement for the Journey
- 4** Practical Parenting: Discipleship at Home



MILESTONE 1: Family Dedication

WHY A LIFE MAP MILESTONE PATH?

Milestones mark key moments in our lives where we see God's faithfulness and growth in every area. At Grace, our Life Map Milestone Path helps families pause, reflect, and realign with God's purposes.

Each stage brings new challenges and opportunities, and the Milestone Path equips parents with biblical guidance, practical tools, and intentional planning to disciple their children with clarity and purpose.

Engaging in this lifelong plan strengthens individuals and reinforces the God-given role of parents and grandparents in their child's life. We would love for you to join us!

Visit gcc.org/milestones to find out how your family can get started on this journey.

GRACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

MILESTONE I FAMILY DEDICATION

BIRTH TO 4 YEARS

EMBRACE THE SEASON, ENGAGE THE MISSION

*Every stage is a new stretch
of trail. Walk it with insight
and intention.*



HOW THEY PRIMARILY LEARN (0–4 YEARS)

- 1 Play:** Play is the child's primary "work." It develops problem-solving skills, creativity, motor skills, and language.
- 2 Senses:** Babies and toddlers explore the world using sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell. Sensory experiences help build understanding.
- 3 Routine:** Repeating activities builds memory and security. Routine fosters trust and predictability.
- 4 Relationships:** Children learn best in the context of secure, loving attachment with caregivers. They mirror behaviors, emotions, and even speech.
- 5 Observation:** Young children constantly observe and copy what the adults around them say and do, including tone, attitudes, and actions.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

- 1 The Brain is a Sponge:** The majority of the brain development happens by age 5. Early experiences matter more than you think.
- 2 Attachment is Foundational:** A child's sense of security and identity is built on consistent, loving interactions with caregivers.
- 3 Spiritual Foundations:** Even very young children absorb a sense of trust, peace, and God's love through how parents care for them and talk about God.
- 4 Your Presence Matters:** What children need most is you - engaged, responsive, and present. You don't need to be an expert, just available.
- 5 Behavior is Communication:** Before they can articulate thoughts or feelings, toddlers and young children often use behavior to express needs or discomfort.
- 6 Everything is New:** Be patient; they're discovering the world one sense, emotion, and moment at a time.

EVERYDAY MOMENTS, ETERNAL IMPACT

*Discipleship doesn't have to be
complicated to be powerful.*

BEST METHODS FOR ENGAGING YOUNG CHILDREN

- 1 Modeling:** Demonstrate behaviors, words, and attitudes you want your child to adopt.
- 2 Read Aloud:** Language and vocabulary explode during this stage. Reading builds attention, imagination, and connection.
- 3 Sing and Use Rhymes:** Music helps children remember words, concepts, and patterns.
- 4 Narrate Life:** Talk to your child about what you're doing and what they're experiencing. This builds language and understanding.
- 5 Hands-On Interaction:** Use toys, nature, art, and movement. Let them explore textures, sounds, and objects.

TOOLS FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD SCAN QR CODE FOR RESOURCES

*Because the right resource at the right
time makes all the difference.*

