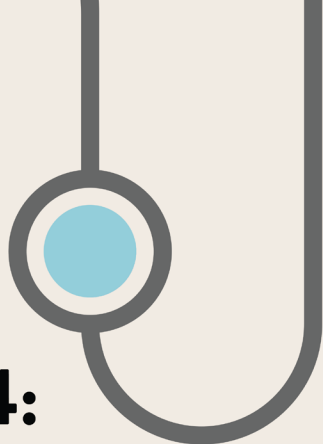




MILESTONE 4: Deepening Your Faith

SIGNIFICANCE + GOAL OF THE MILESTONE:

Deepening Your Faith equips parents to walk with their children through questions of identity, faith, technology, and sexuality. This milestone emphasizes modeling authentic faith, strengthening relationships, and guiding with humility and biblical clarity as kids move from borrowed beliefs toward personally owning their faith during this crucial season of growth and transition.

SESSION TOPICS:

- 1 Strengthening the Parent-Child Connection
- 2 Navigating Conflict with Humility and Compassion
- 3 Shaping Identity and Faith with Truth
- 4 Guiding Biblical Integrity with Technology and Sexuality

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.

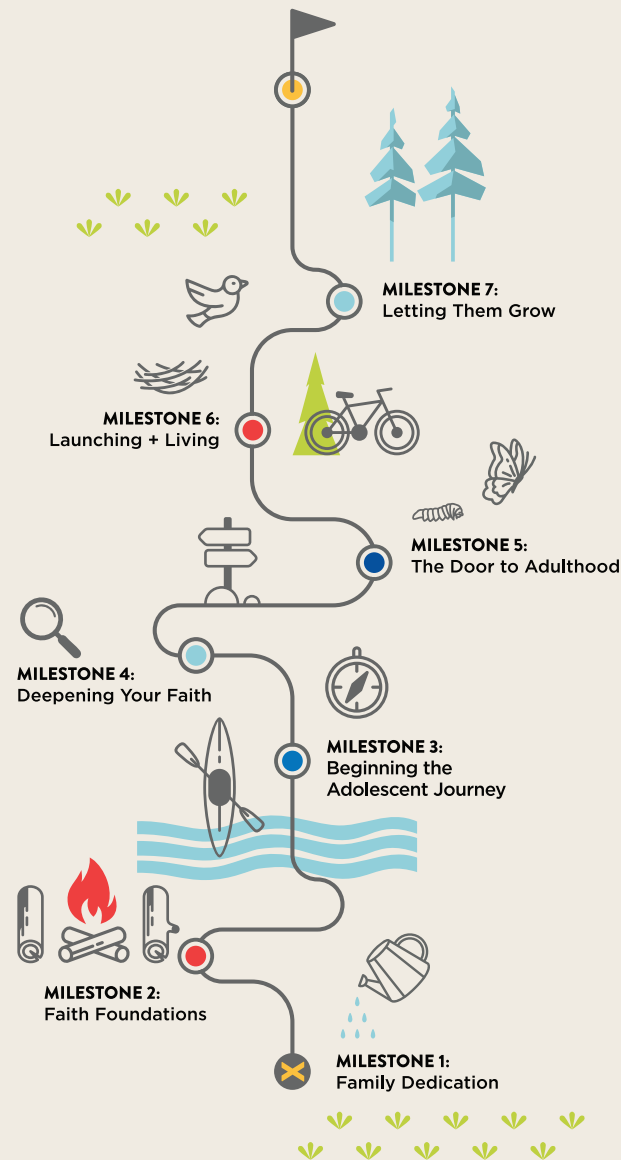
GRACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

MILESTONE 4 DEEPENING YOUR FAITH

AGES 12 - 14

EMBRACE THE SEASON, ENGAGE THE MISSION

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



HOW THEY PRIMARILY LEARN (AGES 12 - 14)

- 1 Identity Exploration:** They're asking, "Who am I? Where do I belong? What do I believe?" Learning is tied to self-discovery.
- 2 Critical and Abstract Thinking:** They can now grasp more complex ideas like grace, justice, and eternity - and probably enjoy discussing them.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

- 1 They're Forming Core Beliefs:** Many students at this age either solidify their faith or begin to drift. Intentional conversations are key.
- 2 They're Looking for Authentic Faith:** They can spot hypocrisy a mile away. They need to see faith lived out consistently and humbly.
- 3 They Feel Everything Deeply:** Emotional highs and lows are part of adolescence. Be patient and stay present, even when they push you away.
- 4 They Still Crave Connection at Home:** Even if they act like they don't need you, regular one-on-one time, listening without correcting, and showing up consistently builds trust.
- 5 Peer Influence:** Friendships hold a strong influence. They often learn through shared experiences, group discussions, and peer comparison.
- 4 Honest Dialogue:** They value real talk. They're drawn to adults who are authentic and willing to engage with hard topics.
- 5 Autonomy and Ownership:** They learn best when they feel like their voice matters and their choices carry weight.
- 5 They Want to Know Why:** Rules, beliefs, and practices that don't make sense to them will be challenged. Offer explanation, not just enforcement.
- 6 They're Watching the World:** Culture is shaping their views on identity, sexuality, truth, and purpose. Parents must be proactive in guiding them through a biblical lens.
- 7 They Need Boundaries with Relationship:** They want freedom, but still need limits and accountability. The most effective parenting at this age balances truth and grace.

EVERYDAY MOMENTS, ETERNAL IMPACT

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

BEST METHODS FOR ENGAGING (AGES 12 - 14)

- 1 Foster Safe Discussion Spaces:** Create environments where students can process, question, and express doubts without fear of shame.
- 2 Use Real-World Connections:** Tie lessons to things that matter to them - justice, relationships, identity, purpose, etc.
- 3 Encourage Reflection:** Journaling, solitude, and Scripture meditation help them explore their beliefs more deeply.
- 4 Engage with Story and Testimony:** Real stories of faith, especially from older teens and young adults, are powerful.
- 5 Give Meaningful Roles:** Let them serve in church, lead a devotion, plan an event, or help younger students. It builds purpose and ownership.
- 6 Allow Room for Wrestling:** Faith becomes real when they're allowed to ask, challenge, and search for themselves, combined with wise guidance.

TOOLS FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD SCAN QR CODE FOR RESOURCES

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

