

Family Discipleship - Milestones

Family Discipleship Milestones: *Marking and making occasions to celebrate and commemorate significant spiritual milestones of God's work in the life of the family and child.*

The authors use 2 illustrations to open this chapter:

Seeds and Stones

- Stone thrown into a lake makes a ripple effect with no lasting impact
- The impact of Seeds, on the other hand, are invisible at first, reproduces its effects as it matures and multiplies.
- Sometime our efforts seem like ripple – here for a moment and gone



Much of what we do in family discipleship will feel like stones in a pond—
Making a quick impact but lacking clear lasting effects.

Some of what we do in family discipleship will be more like seeds sown – ***Think oak tree***

- Some of the most meaningful, lasting, and unforgettable aspects of your household discipleship will be accomplished in celebrating and commemorating spiritual milestones.
- Milestones are, in some ways, a more significant version of family discipleship time and family discipleship moments. (Family Discipleship, p. 109)

Think of our own Culture...What are examples of Annual Milestones that we celebrate?

Biblical Principle behind Milestones

The Rainbow

Genesis 9:12-13 - And God said: “This *is* the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that *is* with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

Passover

Exodus 12:14 - So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. (Passover)

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 4:19-24 - Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth *day* of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. ²⁰ And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. ²¹ Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What *are* these stones?’ ²² then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’;

Family Discipleship – Milestones (cont.)

Defeat of the Philistines

I Samuel 7:8-12 - So the children of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines.”⁹ And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered *it* as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. Then Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him.¹⁰ Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the Lord thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.¹¹ And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set *it* up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”

The Lord’s Supper

I Corinthians 11:23-25 - For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread;²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”

The Two Kinds of Milestones

Making. Creating significant milestones to commemorate, celebrate, or commend spiritual growth.

Marking. Appreciating God and his unpredictable work as you recognize it in your family.

Family Discipleship Milestones are marking and making occasions to celebrate and commemorate significant spiritual milestones of God’s work in the life of the family and individual child.

- Milestones can be momentous events, so they may require a greater level of creativity and effort, but that is not required.
- Spiritual milestones can simply be new ways to take advantage of existing celebrations in your family’s life.
- Milestones are tremendous opportunity to enjoy and share in commemorating all that the Lord has done!

Conclusion

When it comes to family discipleship, low-hanging fruit is everywhere. You do not need to create amazing productions or have an archive of profound insights at the ready. Family Discipleship does not have to be elaborate or complicated. You just need a willingness to focus on the child in front of you, and together focus on the God is everywhere.