Milestones That Matter: Connecting Church, Home & Faith

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When we become parents...

Along with a diaper bag full of supplies, a believing parent picks up and feels the weight of some very robust theological implications.

One of them includes **The Great Commission**.

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Conviction

First, effective disciplers are driven by Jesus' Commission, something every church leader would claim, despite what their daily and weekly calendars reveal. You know the Commission, but is there evidence in your day timer that the shaping of disciples occupies your energy and investment?

Our day timers reveal our intentionality and our obsessions.

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Curiosity

Second, people who produce deep followers of Jesus are driven by a curiosity about the people who cross their path. The curiosity to is not simply cerebral; it is strong enough to impact the way life and ministry are done.

Look again at the methodology of Jesus. He is truly convinced the Commission matters. He supplied it, but his curiosity is not simply a vain hope that his followers would live fulfilling lives; it was actualized by a 3-year strategic and focused investment in what they would become.

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Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
5 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul,
and all your strength.
6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands
that I am giving you today.
7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you
are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed
and when you are getting up.
8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.
9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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What's the Next Generation Worth?
Everything! Everything we got!

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Number One:

The Church can intentionally engage parents at important milestones in their child's journey to teach them, encourage them, resource and celebrate where they are and where they are going.

How can the church help practically?

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Milestone #1 Child Dedication/Family Commissioning

We the church, have this critical moment, at the beginning of their journey as a parent, where we can step in a help them:

1. Understand that they are the primary spiritual influence in their child’s life.

2. Understand that they can make a plan, right from the start!

3. Understand that despite their upbringing or where they are on their own spiritual formation, they can do this and we can help!

Milestone #2: The Nursery

The nursery is an opportunity for Hospitality. What is Hospitality?

Gaining entrance into a child's life…giving them a great first impression of the Church and more importantly who Jesus is.

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Milestone #3: Preschool

The Preschool Room is a place of exponential growth. Their brains are little sponges. Through play, they learn songs, prayers, memory verses, Bible stories. Discipleship, discipleship, discipleship!

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Milestone #3: Elementary

1. Are we having salvation response moments in Kids' Church?
2. Are we training volunteers to lead a child to Christ?
3. Are we following up with parents when a child makes a decision to follow Jesus?
4. Are we making sure children have a proper age-appropriate Bible?
5. Are we teaching them how to read the Bible?
6. How are we teaching and communicating to the child and the parent the next step after salvation: water baptism?
7. Are we teaching and preaching about Spirit Baptism?
8. Are we teaching our volunteers how to pray for a child to seek the Holy Spirit, praying for the gift of tongues?

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Milestone #4: Middle School

Who bridges the gap between Kids' Church and Middle School Ministry? Who are the adults? Who are the adults that are going to be their people? Who are the leaders?

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Number Two:

The Church can pray for, recruit and train staff and volunteers to engage families to learn together in community!

How can the church help practically?

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What might that look like:

Parenthood Cafe, Quarterly Huddles, Family Life Group led by a couple who is ahead of them in the parenting journey.

It will take a community to engage families to do this together. What is your plan?

Do parents know the plan?

Is it a priority or an afterthought?

Is there a budget for this plan?

We have the opportunity to disciple parents who will disciple their children.

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Number Three:

The church can engage in a holistic approach to family ministry, from the lead pastor down. What is the next generation worth-everything!

What if every pastor was the Family Life Pastor?

How can the church help practically?

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What do you want families to do together spiritually? Not separately, we got that covered, but TOGETHER!

1. Read the word, respond.
2. Pray
3. Worship.
4. Serve and give
5. Discover their gifts.

The endless Family Serve nights, Family Worship nights, Family Baptisms, Family seminars, Family vision boards, Family Sundays, and Family life groups. It is all worth it!

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“Family Discipleship will naturally press us to take our own discipleship journey.”

-Jenni Colwell

“Faith isn’t built in one hour a week. Faith is formed in teachable moments at home and on the road with everyday items declaring God’s Word over our children.”

- Leann Woelk