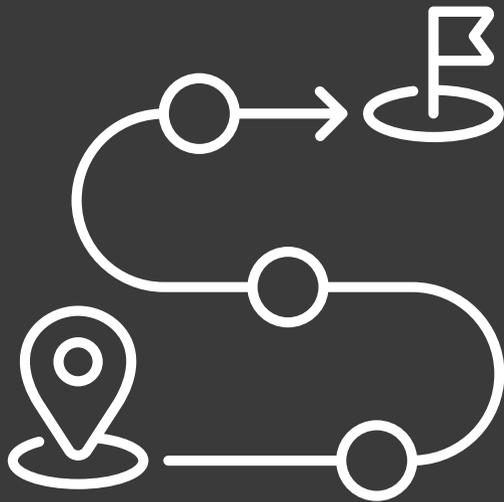




SPOTSWOOD
BAPTIST CHURCH



MILESTONE PLAYBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

At Spotswood, we are dedicated to helping families disciple their children with love for God and neighbors. To support this, we have developed a unique milestone pathway that begins in infancy and highlights key moments in spiritual growth. These milestones aim to create opportunities and environments that guide parents in leading their families toward a household commitment to Jesus. Scripture emphasizes that parents are the primary disciplers of their children, and we are here to assist by providing resources and planning tools. We believe these milestone moments will be valuable as families navigate each developmental stage. Our support extends beyond an event; we encourage them to utilize our church, pastors, and ministries as ongoing resources. We are in this together!

1 PARENT DEDICATION

MILESTONE PHILOSOPHY

At Spotswood, our commitment to building strong families has led us to create a meaningful experience for couples with babies and young children. This milestone is an opportunity for parents to stand before God, family, and friends—within a corporate worship service—to publicly declare their intention to raise their children according to biblical principles. Drawing deeply from Deuteronomy 6, the Parent Covenant reminds parents of their God-given responsibilities and affirms the truth that parents are the primary spiritual disciplers of their children. Both the class and the dedication ceremony are intentional efforts to help parents begin a lifelong journey of spiritual intentionality—cultivating a home where faith is taught, modeled, and lived out daily.

TIMELINE

Parent Dedication takes place quarterly.

2 FIRST BIBLE

MILESTONE PHILOSOPHY

At Spotswood, our commitment to building strong families has led us to create a meaningful experience for kindergarteners and their parents. This special event provides an opportunity for parents to partner with one another—and with God—in a classroom setting designed for their season of life. While children enjoy engaging activities that help them use their new Bibles and develop foundational Bible skills, parents will receive practical instruction and encouragement in four key areas:

1. Family Worship – Establishing rhythms of worship in the home.
2. Leading your Child to Christ – Understanding how to guide your child toward a personal relationship with Jesus.
3. Introducing the F260 New Testament for Kids – Learning how to use this resource to help children explore God’s Word.
4. Getting the Most Out of Worship – Helping your family engage more fully in corporate worship.

Together, this milestone marks an intentional step toward equipping families to grow in faith –at home and in the church.

TIMELINE

This Milestone takes place during the fall of each year.

3 HOW TO HAVE THE TALKS

MILESTONE PHILOSOPHY

At Spotswood, our commitment to building strong families has led us to create a meaningful experience for couples centered on beginning to have “The Talks” with your fourth grader. This Milestone equips parents with biblical wisdom and practical tools for guiding their children to understand and embrace God’s design for gender and sexuality in an age-appropriate way.

Grounded in God’s Word and the trusted resource *How You Are Changing: A Guide for the Christian Family*, this class helps parents approach these important conversations with confidence, clarity, and grace. Parents will leave with a clear plan for engaging their children in ongoing, Christ-centered discussions about identity, purity, and God’s good design for their lives.

TIMELINE

This Milestone takes place between January-February.

#4 SIXTH GRADE SHIFT

MILESTONE PHILOSOPHY

At Spotswood, we believe that the next generation should be invested in and prioritized. One of the most drastic changes in a church for a student is the transition from children's ministry to student ministry. With this in mind, the 6th Grade Shift Milestone event is designed to encourage and equip our new middle school students to grow in their faith in their new season of life as an upcoming teenager, while connecting our leaders to their parents, and assisting in understanding the best practices of technology. This will help set students up for success for the upcoming seven years in student ministry.

TIMELINE

Sixth Grade Shift takes place in August.

5 NINTH GRADE

MILESTONE PHILOSOPHY

The Ninth Grade Milestone focuses on the transition in a student's life of moving into High School. This milestone marks an important season of growth as students step toward greater independence. Our goal for this event is to equip parents for several key transitions ahead and to connect them with other parents who have recently navigated conversations around dating, boundaries, and healthy relationships.

We will also address topics such as freedom with driving, managing priorities, and the challenges that come with technology and communication in this stage of life. Regardless of where families currently find themselves in this journey, we believe the tools and resources provided will offer meaningful support as you guide your students through these new freedoms.

Our commitment to families extends beyond this event. We encourage parents to continue partnering with Spotswood pastors and student ministry leaders as ongoing resources. We truly are in this together, and we look forward to partnering with you and your student during this exciting season.

TIMELINE

The Ninth Grade Milestone takes place in January.

6 SENIOR SHIFT "THE BLESSING"

MILESTONE PHILOSOPHY

The Senior Milestone is a celebration and commissioning of our seniors as they transition from being teenagers into adult life. This transition is marked for many of them by moving out of the house and going to college or living on their own. To help prepare them for this, we create a formal ceremony, led by their parents, that speaks words of life and encouragement over them. Parents are prepped in early spring to begin preparing for the dinner that will happen in early May. They must fill up their table (6-8 seats) with key adult influences from their students' lives (coaches, teachers, small group leaders, other family members). Students and families are encouraged to dress up for this evening, and a dinner is provided. After the dinner, the parents will be prepared to do several things:

1. Read a pre-written letter of encouragement that speaks to how proud they are and the characteristics they have watched form in their child. This letter should also be a charge as they step into this new season, speaking life over their future and how they are gifted to serve others.
2. Present some sort of thoughtful gift of great value (not necessarily expensive).
3. Involve some type of commitment to the student from the parents (commit to pray for them for the next 100 days, journal with them, etc.)
4. Pray over them for this major transition happening in their lives. This event should include traditional elements from a senior banquet, like an address from their pastor or baby picture slideshows. But after those events, the attention is turned to its tables for the parents to lead that time.
5. Have everyone at the table give a blessing to the student

TIMELINE

Senior Shift takes place at the end of each school year..

