

The LC3 Legacy Path

The heart of the **Legacy Path** was to develop a clear track for parents run on as they endeavor to raise children sold out for Jesus. Every child is different, every family is different and every parent is different so this Legacy Path is not intended to be “there’s only one way to do this.” Rather it’s for parents that either aren’t sure what they should be training their child in “right now” or are looking for fresh perspective and new ideas for raising spiritual champions. Many times by necessity we present parenting and child rearing via the “fire hose” method. In other words cover cradle to grave in one complete conference or book or class. What the **Legacy Path** attempts to do is equip parents and others that are mentoring children in bite size pieces. In addition to breaking the information down size wise, the **Legacy Path** also presents the information that is most pertinent to the particular stage your child is dealing with at the time.

We’ve divided the **Path** into 9 milestones. These milestones or markers are not dictated by age or grade level, although there will tend to be a natural range for each stage. Additionally these milestones are timed based on equipping the parent (or mentor) in preparation for training the child not on where the child currently finds themselves. In other words, the time to begin Milestone 2 – “Leading your child to Christ”... is well before the time you’d actually lead your child to Christ. Remember the training is for the parent not the child.

Milestone 1 – First Steps... Parent Commitment and Child Dedication

Age Range~ Newborn to whenever you first dedicate your child to God

This class lays out the basics you need to start your child off with the right foundation. Child dedication is modeled for us in the bible, but as a parent or a church family, what does it mean to dedicate a child. What must I do if I’m committed to training up my child in the way he should go? What are the first steps? This class is now a required class for anyone desiring to dedicate a child at Lake City Community Church. In addition to the class this milestone includes the public ceremony of child dedication.

Milestone 2 – Leading your child to Christ

Age Range~ 2-8

This class is designed to teach parents how to effectively lead their child to Christ. We recognize that faith is much better caught than taught. The purpose of the class isn’t to teach the drawing out of the four spiritual laws, rather it is intended to teach parents what it means to create an environment that points to Jesus. Then when the season is right and your child is ready, how do you walk them through the process of saying yes to Jesus! This milestone also carries with it the public ceremony of water baptism. Once your child has put their faith in Jesus, we want to teach them to also follow Christ’s example of baptism.

Milestone 3 – Part 1 – Preparing your child for adolescence (The Transition Years)

Age Range~ Before 6th Grade

This class is designed to help parents prepare their children for those middle school years. Their bodies are changing the world is asking them to grow up way too fast. Rather than cower as parents during these fast moving years, we want to prepare parents to spiritually lead their child through. There is not public ceremony, instead we will teach parents to create a special event. The purpose of the event (weekend getaway... series of breakfasts... road trip) is to provide the time for dad and son or mom and daughter to talk about changing bodies, emotions, middle school, the importance of making Godly choices. The focus of this milestone isn’t sexual purity, although the topic will come up due to conversations about puberty.

Milestone 4 – Part 2 – Preparing your child for adolescence (The Emerging Years)

Age Range~ before 8th grade

In part 2 of “Preparing your child for adolescence” the focus shifts from the changes associated with puberty to preparing your child for the next stage in life (high school and the coming adulthood). The big issues that we will focus on are “Purity, Calling, and Mission”. We will instruct parents and provide resources for training and calling their kids to purity. Student ministries will also provide an annual section on Biblical Purity. In addition we want parents to challenge their children to begin seeking God’s vision and mission... we want them to see themselves as a part of the body of Christ.

Milestone 5 – Preparing your child for adulthood

Age Range~ before 10th grade

This milestone is intended to declare your son a man and your daughter a woman. Unfortunately in our culture we’ve lost all sense of rites of passage. So when does a young boy know he’s become a man? Who gets to decide when a young girl becomes a young woman? And what does God want our young men and young women to live like? We want to give parents instruction and resources to teach their child what it means to be a man or a woman. Then we will help parents create a “Rite of Passage” for their son or daughter. We want parents to be the one to declare, “because of these things I see in you... you are a man.”

Milestone 6 – Part 1 –Preparing to release your child

Age Range~ before senior year

This milestone of course is highlighted by high school graduation and the impending change of life for many young people. We want to teach parents how to train their children on topics such as dating, marriage, money, defending their faith. We want parents to be able to prepare their children to leave home. This milestone also has a public event centered around a graduating Senior’s banquet and a public blessing delivered by the parents.

Milestone 7 – Parenting your adult child

Age Range~ before graduation

This milestone is designed to help parents understand the process of releasing our children and how to journey this process.

Milestone 8 – Preparing for your expanding family

Age Range~ Before college graduation or prior to beginning their career.

The point of this milestone is to help parents understand the dynamics of parenting an adult child. What is our role? Are we still responsible for what our adult kids do? How much involvement is too much? What is my role as my child is seeking out a spouse? What is my role once my child is married? What is my role as a grandparent?