### **Faith Path Overview**

#### WHY:

We believe God designed the home as the primary place for faith to be nurtured and for a child to grow spiritually. In other words, God gave parents the privilege of nurturing faith in the next generation. That is why the Faith Path was created, as a step-by-step plan to help you be intentional as you prepare for key faith milestones and foster spiritual disciplines in your child's faith journey.

#### WHAT:

The Faith Path is intended to help you develop a clear plan to intentionally point your child toward Christ in an age appropriate manner. We hope that you are naturally exposing your child to many of these faith practices from an early age. The Faith Path recommends focusing on particular practices and preparing for certain milestones at specific ages in your child's life. We will provide you with training, resources, and ideas to help you guide your child along the path.

#### WHEN:

You can start today regardless of your child's age or stage of development. Don't worry if you miss a step or if you are starting the process with an older child. You can always go back and emphasize earlier steps. We also encourage you to reinforce these practices as your child matures rather than view them as a one-time emphasis. You'll find recommended resources and ideas for beginning each step in your child's life and continuing as he or she matures.

### **Your Child's Faith Decision**

Every step along the Faith Path is intended to guide and direct your child toward becoming a fully developing follower of Christ. At some point along the way, your child will be mature enough to make a clear decision to follow Christ and be baptized. We have individuals and resources available for you to be ready when that wonderful event occurs.

My child, listen and be wise. Keep your heart on the right path. - Proverbs 23:19

## **Intentional Faith Path Plan**

Child's Name:

Child's Current Step:

Child's Next Step:

We offer kits to guide you through each Faith Path step. Learn about the appropriate tools for your child's next step at the Faith@Home Center.

## Faith Path Sunday

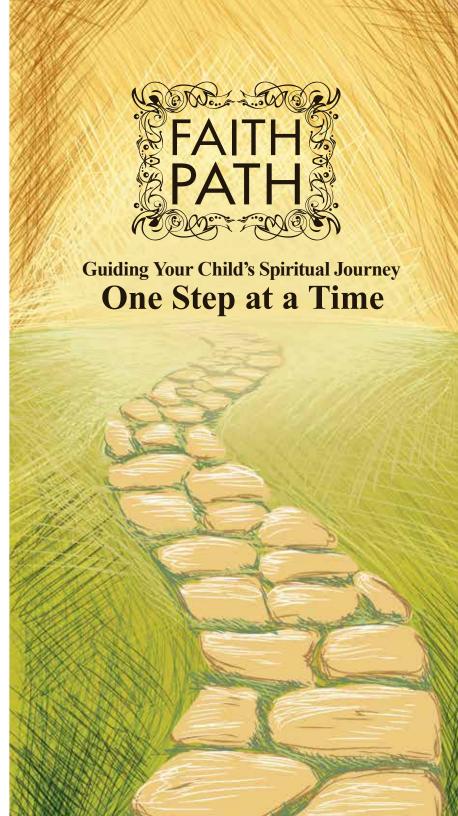
From time to time we will offer classes for parents during Sunday morning Bible class time covering the various steps along the Faith Path to help you be intentional in the spiritual growth of your child. Be looking for upcoming Faith Path Sunday dates or see one of the hosts at the Faith@Home Center to request additional coaching or to answer any of your questions.

#### Resources

When you are ready to take the next step, please visit the Faith@Home Center and speak with one of the hosts to request a kit. The kits pertaining to each one of the steps are also available online at burlesoncoc.com/faithpath.

Further resources are available in the Faith@Home Center and online at burlesoncoc.com/faithathome.





# **Faith Path Steps**

The Faith Path suggests a focus of specific practices and milestones at certain ages. However, you know your child best and can determine the most appropriate time to emphasize each step.

**Parent Dedication** (recommended focus Birth -2 years) make a commitment to raise your child in a Christ-centered home.

**Blessing** (recommended focus ages 3+) establish the practice of praying for and blessing your child on a daily basis.

**Family Time** (recommended focus ages 4+) establish the practice of connecting as a family while passing spiritual truths to your child.

**Prepare to Lead Your Child to Christ** (age will vary, kit at age 5+) learn how to lead your child to Christ. It may be several years before your child expresses an interest, but now is the time to prepare to have those discussions.

**Prayer** (recommended focus ages 6+) teach your child about prayer and establish the practice of praying as a family.

**Bible** (recommended focus ages 7+) teach your child about God's Word and establish the practice of reading and memorizing scripture as a family.

**Worship** (recommended focus ages 8+) establish the practice of adoring God personally, at home, at church, and as a lifestyle.

**Giving and Serving** (recommended focus ages 9+) establish the practice of giving and serving others for God's glory.

**Preparing for Adolescence** (recommended focus ages 11+) discuss the changes and challenges of puberty with your child.

**Purity** (recommended focus ages 13+) prepare and challenge your child to cherish and commit to purity.

**Rite of Passage** (recommended focus ages 16+) celebrate and give your child a vision for the future as an emerging adult.

**Launch** (recommended focus ages 18+) coach your child to move toward college and/or career and adult independence.

### **Faith Decision**

**Salvation & Baptism** (age will vary) the river running along the path is there for your child when they are ready and have made the decision to profess the name of Jesus and be baptized.

