



## BUILDING BLOCK 3 Salvation and Baptism

---



SMRBC'S  
**BUILDING  
BLOCKS**  
*Where To Grow Next.*



**Staples Mill Road**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## ***What Are SMRBC's Building Blocks?***



**SMRBC's Building Blocks is an intentional progressive discipleship map for Staples Mill Road Baptist Church.**

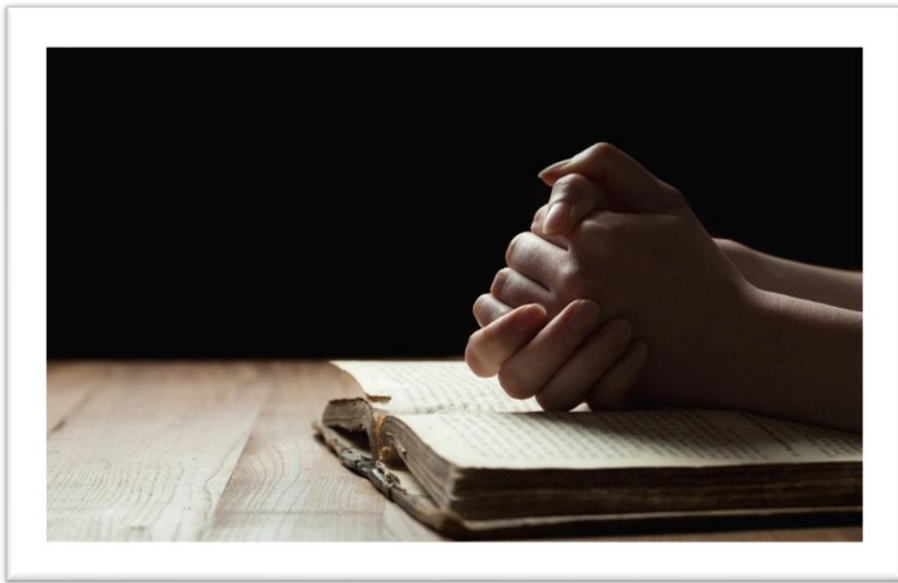
We want to enable every believer in our church to know the next step of spiritual growth for themselves and their children, and to equip them with the knowledge and resources to take that next step.

Parents already recognize stages of life within their family through milestones such as baby dedication, kindergarten graduation, coming of age, or high school graduation. We can utilize these natural stages of life by equipping parents with resources and preparation to intentionally and consistently disciple their children in both planned and unplanned opportunities, leading their children through this unique stage of life and celebrating their children's physical and spiritual growth alongside them.

Milestones and growth do not stop at High School graduation, and our Building Blocks include specific discipleship goals and spiritual development for everyone in the church. As adults continue to pursue Christ, they too can use the Building Blocks to look to their "next step," growing into mature believers in Christ in faith and ministry.

For each Building Block, we are preparing essential resources including seminars and classes, books, videos, and websites. We will help recognize physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual characteristics of each Building Block, and address the changes in relationships and challenges to faith that each stage brings.

Our goal is to help prepare each person for their next step in discipleship, whether it's parents to prepare their children or adults to grow and step out in faith in their own walks.



## BUILDING BLOCK 3 Salvation and Baptism

**Every Christian parent** yearns for the day his child receives Christ as Savior. The implications are enormous and eternity hangs in the balance. Literally, this is the most important decision we can lead our children through.

This seminar and booklet are designed to give you some important knowledge and tools for leading your child into a relationship with Christ.

## HOW ABOUT YOU?

Before we can approach our children with the knowledge of God, we must examine ourselves, our commitment to Him, and the calling He has placed on us.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** *"Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 gives the foundational call to parents to become the primary faith trainers of their children. The Scriptural call to parents is of the highest priority in life. Parents are not simply attempting to create good, hard-working citizens or moral children who respect others. **Parents introduce their children to the God of the universe, their creator, who loves them deeply.** Christianity is not a set of rules or right answers but a relationship with Jesus Christ.

### *An Important Question*

**Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?** Are you simply adhering to a set of standards or rules and trying to live a moral life or do you have a relationship with Jesus?

Use the space below to briefly write out your story.

## BUILDING BLOCK 3 Salvation and Baptism

### *Your Life in Christ*

Your spiritual growth is vital to your ability to lead your children. Our goal at Staples Mill Road Baptist Church is to prepare each person for their next step of growth in their relationship with God. While you're leading your child into knowledge of Christ, we hope you are taking steps to grow in your own faith.

Many people get stuck in mere church attendance. We were made for more than that. The life of a disciple always involves forward movement – following Him. Here at Staples Mill we express this through our 4E's: Encounter, Encourage, Equip, and Engage. By this we mean: Encountering God through worship, Encouraging one another through relationships, Equipping ourselves for service, and Engaging our world with the Gospel.

Your walk with Jesus will directly impact your children. Living in a fallen world, we will not be perfect parents nor perfect followers of Christ, but, we should be continually transformed by the renewing of our minds, which grants discernment of God's will (Romans 12:2).

Do your life and actions reflect and demonstrate Life in Christ?

Today is a good day to begin walking in a manner worthy of your calling (Ephesians 4:1). Are you modeling life in Christ to your children?

## ***PREPARING YOUR CHILD TO TRUST CHRIST***

Building Block 1 - New Child and Building Block 2 - School-Age Kids

Parent/Child dedication is the first step in your children's spiritual journey. Parents learn their roles as primary faith trainers in the life of their child. Many years will pass between the dedication of a baby and the beginning of her new life in Christ. There is no set age for this to take place, but the decision to follow Christ often occurs between the ages of seven and eleven years old.

The School-Age Building Block places an emphasis on equipping parents to share biblical concepts with their young children and helping them to participate in corporate worship. These years are important, because they lay the foundation for children to make such a decision.

### ***Part I: What they need to know! – Core Competencies***

- **Who is God?** God is the sovereign Creator of all things. God is holy and righteous.
- **Who is Jesus?** The basics of God's holy and righteous son. Who he was and is.
- **What is Faith/Belief?** Faith is believing in Jesus and trusting Him to grant salvation through His grace. It is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).
- **What is Biblical Truth?** Truth defined by the Bible is God's infallible truth given to us without any mixture of error.
- **What is personal sin?** Disobedience to God and His word, sin separates us from our holy and righteous God.
- **What is salvation?** Salvation is a free gift from God, by His grace, given to those who have faith or believe (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- **What is repentance and how do I repent?** Recognition of personal sin and an understanding that sin causes a broken relationship with God. Repentance involves confessing sin and trusting God to turn our hearts towards Him and away from sin. Obedience to God is an important part of repentance.
- **What is Baptism and why should I do it?** Baptism is a public display of one's faith in Jesus Christ. It is a first step in obedience and a witness to all that you are now a follower of Christ.

Obviously, this is just a basic understanding of these concepts. In addition to what we'll cover in this seminar, we will help direct you to resources that are available to help you teach these essential truths to your children.

### **The Importance of God's Word**

One important aspect of your child learning to follow Christ is their knowledge of Scripture. The Bible is God's living Word given to us to introduce us to Him. It is God's Story through history of His relationship with mankind. The more God's truth from His word is taught to

## BUILDING BLOCK **3** Salvation and Baptism

your children, the greater understanding they will have of God and what it means to follow Him.

How are you teaching your children God's truth?

### *Part II: Teach them diligently to your children.*

How do you teach God's Truth and these core competencies to your children?

- **Intentional Faith Talks** – A Faith Talk is an intentional time set aside for conversations about God's Word. Faith Talks will take on different forms determined by the personalities and dynamics of each family. Every family's Faith Talks will be different, but all should be:
  1. Intentional - You must place effort, time, and energy into creating a good environment to teach God's word to your children.
  2. Consistent - Faith Talks should happen at least once a week, if not more frequently.
  3. Conversational - Faith Talks should be a fun, relaxed and a conversational time with your children. It's not a lecture or another sermon.
  4. Use the Bible - Make sure God's Word is primary in these times.
- **Capturing God Moments** – These are informal moments where God is working in your child's life. As a parent, you can capture these moments and point them toward Christ. The importance of parents capitalizing on these moments in the life of their child cannot be overstated. The rush and busyness of life challenges the ability to perceive and capitalize on these important moments. Taking the time to answer questions and point our children to Jesus and the Bible are vital. Intentional Faith Talks will many times prompt these questions and moments with your child.
- **Celebrating Building Blocks** – Walking the path includes celebrating milestones as your child passes through them. Building Blocks 1 through 7, oriented towards children and their families, each have a church and/or family celebration with which they are associated. Make these moments an exciting time in the life of your child.
  - Building Block 3: Salvation & Baptism Celebrations
    - Church Celebration: Baptism event at church - invite family and friends.
    - Family Celebration: Plan a Spiritual Birthday party event.
- **Church Involvement** – The community of believers will also play a critical role in teaching your child God's truth. While you are the primary faith trainer, the church partners with you to teach through:



## BUILDING BLOCK 3 Salvation and Baptism

- Weekly preschool and children's ministries
  - Sunday School
  - Foundations program
  - Children's choir
- Yearly events such as Vacation Bible School, Preteen Summer Camp(CentriKid), and family Easter and Christmas events.

### *Part III: The Role of the Holy Spirit*

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5** *"and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."*

It is the desire of every Christian parent to see their child trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior. As parents, we might be tempted to put pressure on ourselves or our methods. The verse above illustrates Paul's understanding that his words, no matter how clever, couldn't lead anyone to follow Christ. He understood that he was only the messenger and the message would be accepted as the Holy Spirit delivered it to their hearts. Ultimately, the salvation of anyone is in the hands of our sovereign God.

#### ➤ **God is at work**

Through consistent teaching of Scripture, God helps children begin to put things together! For some, it will happen in the car or on the bus to school, others at home during a faith talk or listening to a sermon at church. God will work in their hearts to make it all connect.

When they verbalize these connections, it becomes a **God Moment** on which you can act!

**John 6:44a** *"No one comes to me unless the Father who sent me draws him."*

#### ➤ **Parents pray**

The role of the parent as the primary faith trainer is to keep the Gospel in front of their child. God also desires that we partner with him. Praying for your child is the most powerful tool available to you.

In **John 17:20**, Jesus prays, *"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe through their word, that they may be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also, may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."*

Jesus prayed for the generations that *would* tell the next generation, and the next generation. The prayers we pray for our children will not only impact them but the generations to follow.



**An Important Note to Faith Trainers:** Salvation is not a box to check off. It is the beginning of a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. Please do not force a decision that the child is not ready to make or does not completely understand. Giving a child false assurance is dangerous. Trust in the Holy Spirit to guide you and lead your child to saving faith in Christ.

### ***LEADING THEM TO CHRIST***

#### ***How do I know when?***

Important things to look for:

- Children begin asking questions about spiritual things.
- Children will experience a change of behavior indicating the Holy Spirit's work in their life. Conviction may be playing a new role in their moods, attitudes, etc. These times should be authentic and not based on the threat of consequences.
- Children will go through prolonged periods of spiritual interest.
- Children will begin to express affection for Jesus and a desire to follow Him.
- A motivation to be baptized or participate in the Lord's Supper provides opportunities to talk about God's gospel with your children, but it should not be the only indicator that a child is interested in spiritual things.

#### ***How do I specifically lead my child to receive salvation in Jesus Christ?***

Walk him or her through the steps outlined in God's word.

1. God is your creator and loves you. (Gen 1:1, Psalm 24:1; John 3:16)
2. Everyone is a sinner. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
  - a. What is sin? Disobeying God; breaking God's law; doing things we know are wrong; or knowing what is right and not doing it. Ask your child to name sins he has committed.
  - b. What is the result of sin? Death and separation from God. (Genesis 3, Romans 6:23)
3. What do sinners deserve? Death and separation from God.
4. What does God give? "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
Romans 6:23
  - a. God gives a free gift of salvation because of what Jesus did on the cross. Jesus lived a perfect life and then sacrificed His life for us on the cross to restore our relationship with God (2 Corinthians 5:21).
5. Jesus is the only way of salvation. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" John 14:6
6. How should we respond?

## BUILDING BLOCK 3 Salvation and Baptism

- a. In faith. “by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9
  - b. In repentance. We must turn away from sin. “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out.” Acts 3:19
  - c. Confess and believe. “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” Romans 10:9-10
  - d. Thanksgiving and prayer. Encourage them to pray to God about their desire to follow Christ, confessing their sin and expressing their belief in Christ’s death and resurrection. Thank God for his gift of salvation. Avoid repeated prayers. Help the child to make this his or her prayer. A prayer does not seal the deal.
7. Confirm their decision to follow Christ. Ask the following questions:
- a. How does God view your sin now? Forgiven. (1 John 1:9)
  - b. Assure them that the Holy Spirit will guide them and guarantees their salvation (John 16:7-15; Ephesians 1:13-14).

### *Celebrate their new life in Christ*

- Contact Dustin McElduff (Children and Families Pastor) to set up a time for your child to share about their salvation experience (see Baptism: The Next Step of Obeying Christ). This is a time to celebrate and allows our church staff to rejoice in the decision your child has made. Dustin will want to help you and your child take the next steps in discipleship. He can provide a discipleship resource and share information related to our church’s baptism process.

## ***BAPTISM: THE NEXT STEP OF OBEYING CHRIST***

### ***What is baptism?***

Baptism is a church ordinance affirming and portraying a believer’s union with Christ by immersing him or her in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer’s faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior; the believer’s death to sin; the burial of old life; and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord’s Supper.

### ***What is involved?***

1. If your child has made a profession of faith in Christ and is asking questions about baptism, contact Pastor Dustin McElduff ([dmcelduff@smrbc.org](mailto:dmcelduff@smrbc.org) or 672-6811) to schedule a salvation and baptism counseling session. This is simply a time when

## BUILDING BLOCK **3** Salvation and Baptism

Pastor Dustin, your child, and one or both parents get together. Dustin would like to hear your child's understanding of the Gospel while you listen.

2. If you like, your child may choose to make a public profession of faith and come to the front of the church at the end of a worship service. This can be done prior to or following the counseling session mentioned above. However, please know that the counseling session will need to take place before the baptism service.
3. After the counseling session, Pastor Dustin, with your input, will determine the best time for your child to be baptized. At SMRBC we are cautious about proceeding with baptism of young children. Your child's baptism may be delayed until they have a better understanding of salvation.
4. Robin Atkins (Church Secretary) or a member of the baptismal committee will contact your family to schedule the baptism. SMRBC typically sets aside the second Sunday of each month to celebrate baptisms. You will receive special instructions for the day of this special event.
5. Make this event an important time in your child's life. Make it a weekend they will remember. Please see below for suggested ways to celebrate this special milestone in your child's life.

### ***The actual baptism:***

You can prepare your child by walking through exactly what will happen when they are baptized.

- You will meet someone from the baptismal committee at an assigned time and place. They will help you with getting ready for the baptismal service.
- Pastor Dustin or another Pastor you and your child are comfortable with will baptize your child.

## ***CELEBRATE WITH A FAMILY CELEBRATION***

Each of the Building Blocks includes a family celebration or event to mark the importance of passing through this spiritual marker.

- Plan a spiritual birthday party or event for your child. Make it memorable. It doesn't have to be elaborate or expensive. It could be as simple as a cookout with friends, but let your child know it is to celebrate their new life in Christ.
- Present your child something to remember the occasion. This could be a new Bible or some other gift to remind the child of their decision to follow Christ.
- Invite family and friends who have played a role in their spiritual development. Ask them to write a note of encouragement or prayer for your child.

## ***NEXT STEPS: A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST...DISCIPLESHIP***

After celebrating the salvation and baptism of your child, remember that their spiritual journey is only the beginning. Preparing your child for the challenges that come with following Christ in our world today should not be left up to them. They need you to continue to invest in their spiritual development.

If they have not completed the *I am a Christian Now!* Activity book for new Christians, encourage them to complete it. It will help them to learn about the importance of daily Bible reading, prayer, obeying Christ's commands, and sharing their faith with others. If they enjoyed this book, Lifeway has a 90-day devotional for new believers. It will help them to develop a quiet time and increase their knowledge of the Scriptures.

As the primary faith trainer, your role in their discipleship is vital. Remember that more is caught than taught. Continue to model a life that seeks to put Christ first (see Matthew 6:33). Remind them often of the Gospel message.

Continue to be intentional with your **Faith Talks**, and capitalize on **God Moments**. Now that your child is a Christian they will have more questions and need guidance from you. Daily intake of God's word is necessary for all believers. *Long Story Short* and *Old Story New* by Marty Machowski are excellent devotionals to use with children. The devotions are brief and have great suggestive activities to make this family time interactive and fun.

Most importantly, pray for your child daily to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18) and pray for God's wisdom to help you lead your child to "walk in a manner worthy" of the life God has called them to live.

## BUILDING BLOCK **3** Salvation and Baptism

***NOTES:***

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### Recommended Bible & Faith Talk Resources

- *NIRV Adventure Bible for Early Readers* (Bible presented at Kindergarten graduation)
- *Helping Children to Understand the Gospel* by Sally Michael, Jill Nelson, and Bud Burk
- *I Am a Christian Now! Younger Kids/Older Kids: An Activity Book* for new Christians by Lifeway: kids (resource given at counseling session)
- *I am a Christian, Now What?* 90 day devotional journal for kids by Lifeway:kids
- *What is a Christian?* by Phil Vischer – Video resource available on RightNow Media

### Books

- *What Is the Gospel?* by Greg Gilbert  
This book offers a clear and biblical understanding of the gospel. The author argues that the central structure of the gospel consists of four main subjects: God, man, Christ and response. This is a great resource to better understand the gospel.
- *Big Truths for Young Hearts* by Bruce Ware  
Bruce Ware is a Christian theology professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and through his book encourages and equips parents to guide their young children (6-14 years of age) through all major doctrines in an understandable, chapter-a-day format. The books covers ten topics of systematic theology including one on salvation and baptism. This resource is probably best to use with older kids, but contains a wealth of knowledge for faith trainers.
- *How to Bring Your Children to Christ* by Ray Comfort  
Ray Comfort is a well-known evangelist. He has worked with the actor Kirk Cameron on the television program, “The Way of the Master.” This book equips parents to use the Ten Commandments (God’s Law) as a guide to lead their kids to repentance and saving faith. The author does have some strong opinions and suggestions for safeguarding kids. One is public education. However, he does a good job of explaining the dangers of a rushed decision that leads to false converts.

### Websites

- Children Desiring God website [www.truth78.org](http://www.truth78.org)  
The Children Desiring God website has some training seminars available on the topics of salvation and sharing the Gospel with your children. It includes downloads, podcasts and videos.

## BUILDING BLOCK **3** Salvation and Baptism

- Family Life website [familylife.com](http://familylife.com)  
The Family Life website provides bible-based help for almost every stage of marriage and family life. It includes blogposts, podcasts, and resources on many different topics.

### *SMRBC Classes/Seminars*

- Leading Your Child to Christ Parent Seminar led by Pastor Dustin or Building Block Champion  
This seminar will equip parents or grandparents to lead their children toward a relationship with Jesus Christ. Faith Trainers will learn biblical truth related to salvation and baptism.

### *RightNow Media Resources (streaming video)*

- *It Starts at Home: Learn to Confidently Teach Your Kids About God* with Matt Chandler  
In these six video driven sessions, faith trainers will explore biblical and tangible ways that they can build a legacy of faith in their children. If you wondering how to model Christ for your kids in your marriage and home, this is a great place to start.

### *Other Resources*

- *Leading Your Child to Christ: Biblical Direction for Sharing the Gospel*  
This a minibook published by New Growth Press. It will help you to know what to say and *share* when sharing the Gospel with children.
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me*  
Gospel tract for kids published by Lifeway
- *Who Will Be King? - Two Ways to Live*  
Gospel tract for kids. There is also an online presentation available at [www.twowaystolive.com/2wtl4kids.html](http://www.twowaystolive.com/2wtl4kids.html)
- *The Radical Book for Kids: Exploring the Roots and Shoots of Faith* by Champ Thornton  
A fun-filled, visually appealing guide to the Bible, church history, and life for boys and girls ages 8 and up. One review states, "Overall, as children read this book they will encounter faith questions (Can you prove that God exists? How do we know the Bible is true?), fun facts, historical information and vignettes, and lessons on the person and work of God, challenges to live like Jesus, fun skills to learn (friendship, cleaning your room, memorizing anything, etc.), and knowledge about the Bible." I think is a great gift to give kids at the family celebration after their baptism.





# SMRBC'S BUILDING BLOCKS

## *ALL BUILDING BLOCKS*



BUILDING BLOCK **1** New Child



BUILDING BLOCK **3** Salvation and Baptism



BUILDING BLOCK **5** Purity for Life



BUILDING BLOCK **7** High School Graduation



BUILDING BLOCK **2** School-Age Kids



BUILDING BLOCK **4** Preparing for Adolescence



BUILDING BLOCK **6** Passage to Adulthood

[www.legacymilestones.com](http://www.legacymilestones.com)

Permission granted by Brian Haynes of Bay Area First Baptist Church

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®,  
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry

 **Staples Mill Road**  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**  
10101 Staples Mill Road  
Glen Allen, VA 23060