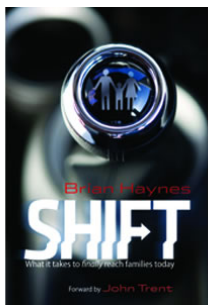


## **Building a Spiritual Legacy for the Next Generation** Integrating God's Original Plan for the Church and Family



(Houston, TX): Prompted by a convicting question from his dying mother on the spiritual legacy he would leave for his children, pastor **Brian Haynes** realized the necessity and importance of a parent's spiritual legacy in the life of a child. Haynes also understood the destruction of the biblical family as parents have abandoned the responsibility of their child's spiritual growth and left it in the hands of the church. Haynes decided the time is now for the church to equip parents in the role that will most impact their child's life - spiritual leader.

"The church was never intended to be a substitute for the home. The biblical plan has been for the church and the family to work together for the spiritual formation of the next generation. This is how we build a Godly legacy that changes the course of American culture forever," says Haynes, the author of ***Shift: What It Takes to Finally Reach Families Today*** (Group, \$14.99, August 2009).

Haynes, alongside the pastoral team from Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas, has developed a church-family ministry centered on the mandates found in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, "*These commands I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*"

"To reach the next generation for Christ, we must make a shift to equipping parents to become the primary spiritual trainers in their own homes...you simply must read this book," John Trent, Ph.D. and author of *The Blessing*

Haynes reminds readers that there are two kinds of Christian parents – those who live as stumbling blocks in their child's faith, or those with a passion for obedience who live as standing stones by pursuing an authentic relationship with Jesus. ***Shift*** outlines seven "Legacy Milestones" that serve as progression markers on the parent-child spiritual formation journey. These milestones, many of which are currently recognized by many churches, are celebrated as a demonstration of how God is working in the person's life, as well as motivation to continue walking the path:

- Milestone 1: Birth of a Child
- Milestone 2: Faith Commitments
- Milestone 3: Preparing for Adolescence
- Milestone 4: Commitment to Purity
- Milestone 5: Passage to Adulthood
- Milestone 6: High School Graduation
- Milestone 7: Life in Christ

Each milestone, guided by a "Champion" partnering with families, is reached as parents lead faith talks, capitalize on God Sightings, and celebrate spiritual growth points along the way. The church equips parents by hosting church events, Parent Summit, parent seminars and Take Home Sunday all implemented by a Generational Team of staff and volunteers. ***Shift*** provides a practical, workable plan that equips parents to be faith influencers in their homes. More information is available at [www.legacymilestones.com](http://www.legacymilestones.com) or [www.legacyblog.org](http://www.legacyblog.org).

***Shift: What It Takes to Finally Reach Families Today*** by Brian Haynes. Published by Group Publishers. September 2009. ISBN: 978-0-7644-3898-1 Soft cover, \$14.99, 145 pages.

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## **Author Bio: Brian Haynes**

Brian Haynes is the Associate Pastor overseeing Spiritual Formation at Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas since 2003. His calling is the development of a strategy linking church and family to equip the generations. Brian is married to his high school sweetheart, Angela, and together they have three daughters. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Liberty Theological Seminary, where he earned his Doctor of Ministry for his work related to family and discipleship.

## **The Seven Legacy Milestones:**

**Milestone 1: The Birth of a Baby:** Parents discover their God-given responsibility to lead their child spiritually at the very beginning of their child's life, and the church's commitment to embrace the family in community and support them in the child's spiritual growth.

**Milestone 2: Faith Commitment:** Milestone Champion teaches children according to age appropriate core spiritual competencies to make an authentic faith commitment including Jesus, faith, the Bible, sin, repentance, salvation and baptism.

**Milestone 3: Preparing for Adolescence:** Church partners with parents of children between the ages of 9 to 12 years old to prepare them for spiritual needs during adolescent years with a focus on the child's identity in Christ.

**Milestones 4: Commitment to Purity:** Parents receive practical tools for helping their kids make a commitment to purity and understand healthy friendships, identity in Christ, and God-honoring sex.

**Milestone 5: Passage to Adulthood:** The church provides opportunities for adolescents to experience a sense of responsibility by serving in a ministry. Parents are encouraged to serve along side their child in the same ministry.

**Milestone 6: High School Graduation:** Parents are urged to commit to weekly Faith Talks and spend time with their teenager as they launch them into life after high school and not passively let them go. Parents are trained on how to defend the Christian faith so they can prepare their teenagers on dealing with non-Christian influences and lead discussions on faith, dating and marriage, finances and life skills.

**Milestones 7: Life in Christ:** Church's strategy is to guide parents to serve in ministries relating to children and teenagers. Parents are equipped to lead children spiritually through new members class, small groups, specialized courses, Wednesday night services seminars are offered.

## **Suggested Questions for Brian Haynes, author of *Shift***

- 1) Why do you believe families and churches are in need of a cultural shift?
- 2) What was God's original spiritual plan for the family? How can we identify this plan?
- 3) What is your advice to parents who feel they are not equipped or have the time to devote to this program?
- 4) Discuss the foundational principles of the program. How will they work in any church?
- 5) What is the responsibility and commitment from both church leaders and parents?
- 6) What are "God Sightings," and how can parents discuss their importance with their children?
- 7) What are the "Seven Milestones" founded in this program?
- 8) Are you asking churches to focus solely on families and parents? What is the role of single adults, one parent families or senior adults in this program?
- 9) How do parents chart their child's course in this program?
- 10) What about those parents who are not interested in leading their child spiritually or feel they are not equipped to do so?

## **Legacy Milestones Terms**

- 1) Milestones - "An event, preceded by a period of instruction from parents that celebrates a spiritual development point in a child's life."
- 2) Core Competencies - Clearly defined key truths that a child, student or adult must learn as he or she progresses along the path of legacy milestones. Core Competencies are primarily taught by the parents, but are reinforced by the church and its leadership.
- 3) Faith Talk - The formal way parents teach the core competencies between each milestone and the major component to parents leading their child along the path.
- 4) God Sightings - The informal way parents teach the core competencies between each milestone. This entails embracing the moments that God provides parents to model truth and speak truth in everyday life.
- 5) Campus Events - Events hosted on the church campus in support of the legacy milestones. These events help assist parents in teaching the core competencies, but also serve as celebrations of growth along the milestone path.
- 6) Family Celebrations - These events are held within the home to support the milestone process, sometimes a symbol is presented during this time (example: a purity ring)
- 7) Parent Seminars - Time set apart to equip parents to lead their student toward a given milestone by providing information, resources and a partnering plan between the parents and the church.
- 8) Parent Summit - A conference style event that allows a speaker to motivate and encourage parents, while creating a time for them to also attend Parent Seminars and gain resources for leading their child along the path.

## **Interview Topics**

- 1) Equipping parents to be the spiritual leaders for their children
- 2) Understanding the milestones that families should celebrate
- 3) Implementing faith talks between parent and child in an organic manner
- 4) Creating a relevant and an enduring family ministry
- 5) Cultural differences: What Western culture families can learn from an Eastern document – the Bible