

## ***Milestone Moments***

For Use in the Home and Beyond

### **User Guide**

*Life is not measured by time, but by moments*



### ***Milestones Ministry Commitment***

“We believe that Milestones Ministry provides an essential tool for faith formation in the twenty-first century. For the home, Milestones Ministry resources help nurture the Christian faith, strengthen relationships, and provide the kind of bond that provides meaningful memories for years to come. Both in the congregation and the home, the Milestones Ministry model reaches out to all generations with the love of God in Christ in doable and practical ways.”



## Milestone Moments

Each Milestone Moment provides the opportunity for families and friends to set aside time in their homes to recognize God's presence in the midst of life's milestones whether they are happy or sad. Intentionally taking time to recognize these moments, builds caring, trusting relationships.

**There are 75 Milestone Moments to choose from that are available as individual downloads or included in one of five different grouped sets:**

|                            |                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Adult</b>               | Contains 15 moments in an adult's life that capture life milestones that occur in many people's lifetime.                                     |
| <b>Children and Youth</b>  | Contains 15 moments in a child and youth's life that capture the major life milestones that occur in their lives before they reach adulthood. |
| <b>Faith Traditions</b>    | Contains 15 moments that capture many faith tradition milestones happening during congregational faith formation events.                      |
| <b>Holidays and Events</b> | Contains 15 moments that include national and religious holidays and events that are observed.                                                |
| <b>Intergenerational</b>   | Contains 15 moments that focus on events that are shared in households and often occur in the lives of all ages.                              |

## Overview

All Milestone Moment downloads have the same basic design and layout. This provides consistency so that whatever moment is chosen, you already know what to expect: A time of talking, answering questions and listening to one another, reading a verse/s from the bible and giving thoughts about it, a prayer and a blessing to say, and then a thought on how to show love for others through actions and words.

## Milestone Moment Layout

Each Milestone Moment consists of two pages that are reproducible in your local setting and can be printed or sent as an email document.

- Page 1 describes the Significance of the Moment and the importance of observing it. It has a relevant quotation and three photographs related to the event.
- Page 2 provides a Conversation Guide\* that includes talking and listening to one another, reading a verse or verses from the Bible, and a prayer and blessing. It includes a food for thought question on how one might show love for one's neighbor through an act of service.

All Milestone Moment Conversation Guides are designed and based on the \*[Four Key Faith Formation Practices](#) of Caring Conversations, Devotions, Rituals and Traditions, and Service. Using these practices encourages people to grow in their faith through personal, trusted relationships with each other.

***Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships — often in our own home.***

# Milestone Moments



## Growing in Faith Takes Practice

The [Four Key Faith Formation Practices](#) used for each Conversation Guide provide the common thread that nurtures faith formation. These basic faith practices are evident in Scripture, church history, and modern research. The concept of the Four Key Faith Formation Practices comes out of the doctoral research work from 1987-1990 by the Rev. Dr. David W. Anderson at Luther Seminary in Minneapolis, MN. It is through these practices that faith is successfully passed on to the next generation.

**Practice! Practice! Practice!**

## All Conversation Guides Include:

### **Talk and Listen** (Caring Conversations)

This section encourages conversations in order to build relationships. It includes the practice of sharing highs and lows and some discussion questions related to the topic.

### **Read the Bible** (Devotions)

Reading God's word serves as a fundamental basis for all faith formation. A related Bible verse is provided to read along with some questions to generate some discussion about the reading.

### **Pray and Bless** (Rituals and Traditions)

Both a prayer and blessing are said that relate to the event being observed. Sharing these with each other provides an opportunity to experience the joy and grace of God in our lives.

### **Love Your Neighbor** (Service)

A fundamental basis of Christianity is to love your neighbor as yourself. In today's world that can be difficult at times. This section provides a suggestion related to the event as to how one might be able to practice serving others.

**“Sometimes, you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.”**

— Dr. Seuss

## Remember!

- It is important that each person talk and each person listen well in a caring, trusting, nonjudgmental setting. This leads to building strong relationships.
- Milestone Moments can be happy, sad, or fearful times in our lives.
- The importance of sharing highs and lows should not be underestimated.
- Faith is caught more than it is taught.
- If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults who practice the faith with them.
- Making it a priority to set aside time intentionally to talk with and actively listen to our children, youth, and all ages leads to building deep and lasting relationships.

**“These commandments that I give you today are to be on 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.”**

— Deuteronomy 6:6-7



## Planning and Leadership Tips

### How to best use and distribute Milestone Moments in the Congregation:

- Send a link to a page on your website that is member only access where users can choose from the ones purchased by the congregation to download and use in their homes with family and friends.
- Set up a display with multiple Milestone Moments that have been printed in a common area in the church for people to choose from and take home.
- Host a Milestone Moment event during a weekday or following worship to introduce them to the congregation. Serve snacks or a meal before you begin. Invite people to sit in groups of 4 or 5 and facilitate them through each step found in the Conversation Guide. Following the event, invite and encourage people to take printed copies home of other Milestone Moments they would like to use in their homes with family and friends.
- Include them as an insert in the church bulletin for households to take home during certain times of the year: Blessing of the Christmas Tree, Blessing of the Advent Wreath, Saint Valentine's Day, Candlemas, etc.
- The Milestone Moments are designed with the consistent outline of Talk and Listen, Read the Bible, Pray and Bless, and Love Your Neighbor. After individuals become familiar with engaging in faith talk at home, encourage them to use the same design to name and write their own Milestone Moment that is relevant in their own lives.

### How will we know if households are practicing faith at home?

You will never know unless you ask! Following up is important!

**“The role of the leader in the congregation is to guide and encourage. We can talk until we are blue in the face about faith formation and think everyone “gets it.” But until we encourage all ages to tell their own faith story and share it with others, our efforts are often fruitless. I learned this lesson the hard way. When we follow up and ask what is working and what is not for all ages in the home, stories abound and we learn that ultimately it is not about us. God is good, all the time.”**

— Debbie Streicher

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