



*Each generation
will reap what
the former
generation has
sown.*

– Proverb

Family Reunion Milestone Moment

Milestones Ministry brings an awareness of the presence of God to individuals of all generations by recognizing the home as church, too. Milestones Ministry provides a clear and usable model for congregations, homes, and community to connect faith formation resources with daily life experiences. The rich variety of life experiences represented in Milestones Ministry does the essential ministry of the church: promoting Christian faith formation with family, friends, and others with whom we can reach.

When a family gathers for a reunion, it is a wonderful blessing that provides an opportunity to embrace the past, talk about the present, and dream about the future. It is a time for renewing relationships and meeting new members of the family. This milestone is a good time to reflect on past generations and the lives of those who have gone before. There has been a history specific to each participating household that includes disappointments, joys, and hopes. It is important to be sensitive to a wide variety of experiences. This Milestone Moment offers an opportunity for family members to be excited about traveling side-by-side into the future with the encouragement that the Christian faith has brought and continues to bring to families.

Milestones incorporate a simple structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestones Ministry Moment has a greater chance to take deeper root in lifelong faith formation.

Being at a family reunion creates an opportunity to pause and recognize and celebrate the importance of the extended family. Providing an opportunity to experience God’s presence in this moment is important. This Milestone Moment incorporates a simple structure that includes:






Naming – It is important to recognize the significance of a family reunion. It helps to identify the generations of families as descendants of a particular family lineage.

Equipping – This Milestone Moment encourages caring conversations that draw out memories and stories of the present and past among family members and encourages the renewing of relationships.

Blessing – Praying with and for one another and remembering those who have gone before us is a witness to the longevity of the family and it’s faith history through the generations.

Gifting – Giving a tangible gift like pictures, a T-shirt, or other memorabilia will help all be reminded of this milestone for many years to come.

Reinforcing – It is a good idea to follow up after the Family Reunion Milestone Moment by exchanging phone numbers, email addresses, and/or creating a Facebook page to stay in touch with one another throughout the year and to help plan a future reunion.

 Caring Conversations
  Devotions
  Four Key Faith Practices
  Service
  Rituals and Traditions



+ Family Reunion Milestone Moment

For a Small Group or Family Gathering



Growing People in Faith when at Home and Away

“and talk about them when you are at home and when away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

– Deuteronomy 6:7b

A follow up for the Family Reunion Milestone Moment can be done with caring conversations and prayers for one another that can be done by staying in touch throughout the coming year. Consider gathering phone numbers and email addresses. Make copies and send to all as a means to stay in touch. Distribute the link to the Facebook page and encourage those on Facebook to contribute memories throughout the year.

After being together and experiencing this Four Keys outline for practicing faith, continue to bless all the family members by practicing faith and using the Four Keys daily as an intentional step to encourage faith traditions in the home.

A suggested resource for continued caring conversations:

*[Taking Faith Home](#)
[Taking Faith Home Cards](#)*

*Additional Milestone Modules and Moments can be found at:
www.milestonesministry.org*



At the heart of equipping people for their lifelong faith formation are the Four Keys. These faith practices are central to every milestone and integrated into people's daily lives and provide a good way to keep one another in thoughts and prayers. These four daily faith practices are simple, doable, and practical: Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions. Faith in Jesus Christ is at the center of our lives. This includes in the midst of our daily conversations with others. The next page is a discussion guide handout to assist with the conversations.



As you gather together, begin by sharing a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your lives and then use the outline below to talk about faith and God's presence in this moment.



Caring Conversations

Discuss the following conversation starters:

- Tell a memory you have from a past family gathering.
- Name a family member from another generation and tell a memorable story about that person.
- How do you keep connected with others in the family (not in your immediate family) during the year?



Devotions

Read the following: *I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.* Psalm 145:1-4 (NRSV)

Take some time to talk about how this Scripture reading relates to this family through the generations.

Hymn to sing: *Amazing Grace*



Service

After the reunion, there is an opportunity to reach out and touch other lives through acts of kindness.

- How can our family show the love that has been shown to one another over the years as a means to serve others ?
- Find out if someone has worked on the family tree, and if not, identify one or more persons to work on it over the next year and make the information available for all as a service project to help future generations come to know the rich history of the family.



Rituals and Traditions

Hold hands with one another and say the Lord's Prayer together.

Turn to the family members on either side of you and bless one another: *May God's love shine through you and this family today and everyday.*



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Family Reunion Discussion Guide



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