



“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”
 – Colossians 3:23

Work Anniversary Milestone Moment

Whether a person has been employed for 5, 10, 20, or more years, it is good to take a moment to recognize a commitment to work and encourage continuation of a job well done. We work to earn a living so that we can provide a roof over our heads, have food on the table, and clothing to wear. Types of work vary greatly.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said:

“If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, ‘Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.’”

Appreciating and understanding a person’s work and contributions is key to showing that the work done has been valuable and contributes to society. Being grateful for the years worked and recognizing this gives a person a feeling of worth, satisfaction, and achievement. Acknowledging God’s presence at this moment is affirming and provides the opportunity to engage in faith-filled conversations.

This Work Anniversary Milestone Moment provides an opportunity for family and friends to gather for a special time together. Recognizing special milestones in our lives provides an opportunity for people to grow in their faith together.



Naming – Recognizing the number of years that someone has been employed is a time to celebrate the commitment and work that has been accomplished.

Equipping – Talking about the history of the work over the years, including the mountain highs and valley lows is important. Use the Four Key Faith Practices to reflect on God’s presence and how the person has lived out his or her faith through their work.

Blessing – Offering a blessing to the one who has achieved a work milestone provides a thoughtful time for all as they celebrate this special accomplishment.

Gifting – Giving a tangible gift or some other reminder of this occasion helps this moment be remembered for years to come.

Reinforcing – Reflecting on the recognition of a work anniversary and talking about changes and new or growing opportunities is a valuable way to follow-up in the future.

 Caring Conversations
  Devotions
 Four Key Faith Practices
  Service
  Rituals and Traditions





Work Anniversary 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 Work Anniversary Milestone Moment can be done with caring conversations to discuss the difference this work makes in one's life. It is good to talk about the significance of how gaining new knowledge, skills, and abilities can grow a person and generate new opportunities. Gather together as a group to pray and reflect upon God's presence in our lives and in what ways God is always with us in all our endeavors.

An important step after experiencing the Four Key Faith Practices in a small group or home setting is to bless and equip friends and families by using faith practices 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 Key Faith Practices: Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions. They provide an opportunity for people to learn, experience, and grow in their faith together. 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 provide “faith talk” related to the person’s work.



Caring Conversations

Discuss these thoughts and questions:

- Tell about when you started and how you found this job.
- What are memorable moments you and your family, friends, and colleagues have regarding your work?
- What plans do you envision for the future of your work?



Devotions

Read the following:

Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 (NRSV)

Life is God’s gift. We are to take pleasure in work as we are able to serve God and neighbor. A cheerful spirit is a blessing that lessens our struggles and makes our work easier. Using our time and talents well helps us remember our days with pleasure.

- How have these words been true for you in your work?
- Apart from your work, in what ways does God fill your days with gladness of heart?



Service

Wealth and possessions are a result of years of employment and are gifts from God. A Christian response to these gifts is to use our wealth to serve others. In what ways have you—and will you continue to—use your wealth and possessions to serve others in the future?



Rituals and Traditions

Ask each person present to express thanks, a hope, or encouraging words for the person being recognized for this work anniversary. Conclude with a blessing:

(Name), may God continue to bless you with the gift of life and a glad heart as you serve others in Christ's name.



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Work Anniversary Discussion Guide



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