



Confirmation Day Milestone Moment

Milestones Ministry brings an awareness of the presence of God to individuals of all generations by recognizing the home as church, too. It provides a simple, clear, and usable model to connect faith formation resources with daily life experiences. This Milestones Ministry Moment is an opportunity to celebrate confirmation day by creating faith-filled memories after the Rite of Confirmation is completed in a public worship service. You can personalize the experience by discussing treasured memories from the past and hopes for the future as you gather with family and friends in a more intimate setting shaped by faith, hope, and love.

The Bible, church history, and modern research all affirm the important role of family and friends in the life of faith of people. Therefore, it is important to give family and friends the opportunity to celebrate this day with their own thoughts, observations, and prayers. The Confirmation Day Milestone Moment encourages personal storytelling as well as a communal reflection on the Christian faith and its importance to family and friends with a special focus on the newly confirmed person.

This milestone deepens confirmation day memories through important reflection, prayer, and service to others that takes place in and through the home. Loving and faith-filled stories will be told, warm thoughts will be exchanged, and all within the rich and intimate environment of the church in the home.

Milestone Moments use a basic structure that includes the actions of naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing. This Confirmation Day Milestone Moment uses this simple structure and includes the following:

Naming – It is helpful to the lifelong faith formation of the newly confirmed to give family and friends the opportunity to support that person with faithful and loving reflection and prayer.

Equipping – This milestone moment provides family and friends with opportunities to bless the newly confirmed person with caring conversations, a devotional experience, serving others, and Christian rituals and traditions that support the life of faith.

Blessing – Having family and friends bless the newly confirmed person offers a faith experience that can carry them into the future with faith, love, and good deeds.

Gifting – Giving the newly confirmed person a confirmation gift makes a statement about the importance of their commitment. The gift also offers a visual reminder of the importance of the day and who was in attendance.

Reinforcing – Affirming one's baptism and a life dedicated to the Christian faith never ends. Checking in with the newly confirmed weeks after the special day has recessed into one's memory can deepen one's experience of confirmation day and the primary importance of the Christian faith to the confirmand.





Four Key Faith Practices









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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 this Confirmation Day Milestone Moment is to connect with family and friends to reflect on the confirmation day and the importance of the Christian faith in her or his life.

What stories are remembered from that day? What special words of encouragement and faith were expressed from those present? How do the personal and faith stories impact the young person weeks later?

After being together and experiencing this Four Key Faith Practices outline, continue to bless family and friends by practicing faith daily as an intentional step to encourage faith traditions in the home.

A suggested resource for continued caring conversations:

<u>Taking Faith Home</u> <u>Taking Faith Home Cards</u>

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



Milestone Moments provide the opportunity for people to learn, experience, and grow in their life together. This Milestone Moment is intended to be used in the personal setting of the home, perhaps combined with a special confirmation day meal or dessert. If special people like a baptismal sponsor cannot attend, encourage them to send a card with a prayer for the honored person. 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

Process these thoughts and questions:

- What was a special moment you recall from the worship service and the Rite of Confirmation?
- What is a special memory you have of (name of the newly confirmed)?
- What is something you hope for (name) in his/her future?



Devotions

Use the confirmand's specially selected confirmation Bible verse or use the following text with reflection and prayer.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. Ephesians 2:8-10 (NRSV)

- What is a great joy of the Christian faith?
- What is a great challenge of the Christian faith?
- How do you think this Bible text can speak to our newly confirmed person today?



Service

Ask parents, grandparents, and baptismal sponsors to recall the commitment they made to the youth at their baptism. How has this been a joy or a challenge? How would you like to support this person in his/her faith from this time forward?



Rituals and Traditions

Place the newly confirmed in the middle of the group and offer the following prayer and blessing (other prayers and blessings may also be added):

Merciful Savior, we thank you for the gift of faith that brings us hope and blesses us as your servants of love. Grant (name) the assurance of your saving presence to guide him/her with faith toward you and love toward all that you have created. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, amen.

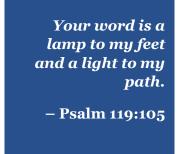
Place hands on the newly confirmed shoulders or head and say:

May the Lord bless you with faith and good courage to trust in God's love and to love your neighbor as yourself. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.











Confirmation Day Discussion Guide



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.



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