



*"To the world you are a dad.
To our family you are the world."
— Unknown*

Father's Day Milestone Moment

The modern U.S. holiday of Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. Father's Day was first introduced in Spokane, Washington at the YMCA in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd in honor of her father, William Jackson Smart. However, throughout the years there was little support in Congress for recognizing it as a special holiday. Finally, in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972. The white or red rose is the official flower for Father's Day. Mrs. Dodd suggested that people wear a white rose to honor a father who was deceased and a red rose for a father who was living.

Honoring fathers on Father's Day sometimes includes backyard picnics, dinners, and family games. Children often give their fathers gifts which they have made themselves or purchased. This Father's Day Milestone Moment provides an opportunity to share stories and recognize God's presence in the lives of families while honoring fathers.

Gathering as families at home or in small groups in other settings to celebrate Father's Day builds relationships and memories. This time is an occasion to cherish the role fathers have in the lives of their children and show appreciation for their guidance and support.

The opportunity for families and friends to gather together to commemorate fathers is a special time. This Father's Day Milestone Moment has a simple five stage structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestone Moment has a greater chance to take deeper root in lifelong faith formation.

Naming – Observing and celebrating Father's Day allows us to have meaningful conversations about the influence of fathers and to honor and acknowledge the role they have had in our lives.

Equipping – Observing Father's Day through caring conversations, reading scripture, and praying creates and nurtures a Christian connectedness in our relationships with one another and the fathers in our lives.

Blessing – Offering a Father's Day blessing to all fathers honors their contributions of compassion and wisdom to their children. It reminds us of God's presence in our lives and the importance of fathers.

Gifting – Giving a father a red rose, a homemade card, a child and parent gifting stone, or some other reminder acknowledges the significance of fathers in our lives.

Reinforcing – Place a recent picture of your father or one of your time together in a visible place in your home as a reminder of this occasion. Regularly take time to pray for fathers around the world.

 Caring Conversations
  Devotions
  Four Key Faith Practices
  Service
  Rituals and Traditions





Father's Day 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 Father's Day Milestone Moment can be done through frequent caring conversations and prayers as a way to stay in touch with fathers. It gives family and friends the opportunity to share experiences, listen, serve, and talk about the importance of showing ongoing appreciation, respect, and kindness.

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](#)
[For Everything A Season Book](#)

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 talk about faith and God's presence in this moment.



Caring Conversations

Discuss these thoughts and questions:

- What images spring to your mind when you hear the word "Father"?
- In what ways do you take after your father? In what ways do you not?
- What is some good advice your father gave you?



Devotions

Read the following:

Listen, children, to a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight; Proverbs 4:1 (NRSV)

- What have you learned from your father that has helped you in life?
- How has your father influenced you and your life of faith with values and traditions?



Service

The special holiday to honor fathers provides an opportunity to reconnect, celebrate, and bring joy to fathers, especially to those who are lonely or homebound. Who do you know that would appreciate a visit or call on Father's Day? How can you bring joy to their day?



Rituals and Traditions

Host a Father's Day cookout/picnic. Decorate using bold colors. Other ideas for decorating include using small banners, balloons, and a red rose arrangement.

Finish the meal by praying together: The Lord's Prayer.

Then conclude with this Father's Day blessing:

Lord, bless fathers and fatherhood across our land. We thank you for our fathers and their compassion and wisdom that future generations may gain insight and courage. May our love for fathers honor them and reflect our trust in you through Christ Jesus our Lord.



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Father's Day Discussion Guide



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