



Milestones

Family Devotions are the core of faith formation. It is important to make them a regular part of your week. As they become routine, you will find the time comes to be more meaningful for the whole family.

In addition to regular devotions, there are times to commemorate something that happens in a family members life. These moments are special and should honored in special ways.

Devotion times focus around key elements that support our faith life:

- Recognizing God's movement in our lives through milestones
- Reading Scripture
- Caring Conversation
- Service
- Blessing each other

The Milestones Commemoration is a general purpose liturgy (outline) for celebrating or remembering a milestone. Many milestones have a special commemoration liturgy that is available from the church. Be sure to check with the church office. To prepare for a commemoration, you may wish to set out special items that help commemorate the milestone (I.E. a graduation certificate, a picture, baptismal candle, etc.). If it is a celebration, you may wish to make a special treat to be shared after the blessing.

Resources you'll need:

- Bible
- Taking Faith Home (TFH) handout
- Candle (optional)
- Milestones (optional)
- A basket or box for cell phones

There are other options for Devotions that are available on our website. If this one doesn't work for you, consider using one of the others available.

www.PeaceLutheranSparta.org

Milestones Commemorations

Remembering milestones can be done on the anniversary of the event or another time that seems appropriate. It may be a way to encourage an individual by reminding of them of something important in their life.

- Begin by **announcing it is time for devotions**. Ask everyone to silence their phones and collect them in a basket. Set the basket aside, out of reach and out of view.
 - Explain that "Today, we are celebrating/remembering a special milestone"
- **Light a candle and pray**: "Gracious God, thank you for being in our lives and especially today we give you thanks for the opportunity to remember how you were present for _____ when they experienced _____."
- Read a **scripture** that is appropriate for the occasion. There is a list on our website or you can do a web search "scripture for _____"
- Share **memories about the milestone**
 - Invite the person for whom the milestone is being commemorated to share their experience with the milestone.
 - Invite other members of the household to share memories about the experience. Individuals may also share a story about their own experience with the milestone if they have experienced it too.
- Share **hopes about the milestone**
 - Beginning again with the person for whom the milestone is being commemorated, invite everyone to share hopes of how the milestone will guide the individual in the future.
- have a **family prayer** for that person.
- Recite the **Lord's prayer**
- **Bless one another**