

EQUIPPING

for intergenerational ministry

Creating a Growing Faith Moment



Life is filled with memorable moments and milestones, some happy and some sad, some personal, some public. Moments and milestones are like doorways into a person's life. People need encouragement. People need to be reminded that they are loved. Every day brings another opportunity for this to happen.

When we intentionally and authentically take any moment in a person's life and find ways of encouraging them, speaking words of faith, praying for them, serving and blessing them, we can have a positive impact.

Celebrating milestones in congregational life

In various ways, congregations already celebrate milestone moments without realising it. Baptism and the rites of First Communion and Confirmation are foundational milestones in our life of faith and community. Congregations are invited to make the most of every opportunity to engage, encourage, teach, equip, gift, serve, pray for and bless participants.

Congregations may also choose to create other milestones to support the faith development of children and families. Grow Ministries has a suite of *Faith Trail* resources to help you introduce a wide variety of milestones into the culture of your congregation.



These include:

- First baptism anniversary
- My Bible
- Lord's Prayer
- Family worship
- Serving together

Congregations could introduce such milestones for different age groups to equip families and encourage faith formation for all.

Celebrating everyday moments

Milestones can also be celebrated informally in the home for almost any occasion. Grow Ministries has written a large selection of resources called *Growing Faith Moments* to help people recognise special moments in each other's everyday lives and to use them as an opportunity to bless, gift, encourage and pray for one another. Some of these



moments include: starting school, birthdays, anniversaries, graduation, gaining a driver's licence, loss of a pet, becoming a parent/grandparent, moving to a new home, and retirement, just to name a few! These written resources are available for you to use as is, or to personalise, to help you mark special moments in meaningful ways and support lifelong faith formation. As you use these moments, they may even start to shape the way you naturally engage with and care for people every day.



Preparing your own Growing Faith Moment

We encourage you to have a go. Here are some ideas you might consider as you prepare your own growing faith moments to help celebrate a milestone in the life of someone close to you. Consider using the following **Four Key Faith Practices** as a guide.



Caring Conversations

Acknowledge the milestone or moment that is being experienced. Aim to build rapport and nurture your personal trusted relationship by sharing your highs and lows in relation to the milestone. It may help to ask a question or two that relates to the milestone to help focus the conversation.

Devotions

As the conversation develops, be prepared to share a scripture, or a meaningful faith-filled thought, testimony or story that builds upon what they have shared with you. This is an opportunity to speak God's promises into their life and help create a hope-filled future for them with God.

Service

Show your authenticity by putting what you say into action. It's great to speak your faith out loud with words of love and devotion but it is amplified as you show your love and care for the person by serving them in meaningful ways that relate to the milestone. Your service towards them could also be in the form of a gift reminding them of this special moment.

Rituals and Traditions

As you wrap up your time together, pray for them and conclude by blessing them. Your prayer may demonstrate that you have listened to them. It may point them to God who loves and cares for them.

Conclusion

Preparing your own unique growing faith moment to share with another person is that simple. Over time, this style of interaction may become a natural part of your conversations with one another. This is possible because you have taken up the opportunities to engage with them, and speak encouragement over them at key moments.

Finally, make time to follow up with the person you have shared the moment with so you can continue to nurture your ever-growing relationship with them. God's Spirit loves to work through personal trusted relationships to grow faith. May this be true also in the lives of those you love and care for.

If you would like more information about Grow Ministries, intergenerational ministry, or resources and training, please call **08 8267 7300** or visit our website: www.growministries.org.au

