FORMING FAITH THROUGH MILESTONES

FUTURE OF FAITH SYMPOSIUM SEPT 29 – OCT 1, 2016

MILESTONES MINISTRY

What is your definition of a milestone?

A milestone is one of a series of numbered markers placed along a road or boundary at intervals of one mile or occasionally, parts of a mile. Mileage is the distance along the road from a fixed commencement point.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

www.milestonesministry.org

What is your definition of a faith connected milestone?

A milestone is a meaningful, memorable moment in the lives of individuals and communities.

Milestones in our lives can be life changing. Some are happy. Some can be sad and fearful times.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

www.milestonesministry.org

What does it mean to form faith through milestones?

Connecting the meaningful, memorable moments in our lives to God's presence in those moments.

Adding scripture, prayer, and a blessing makes this a faith formation moment and becomes part of our faith journey.

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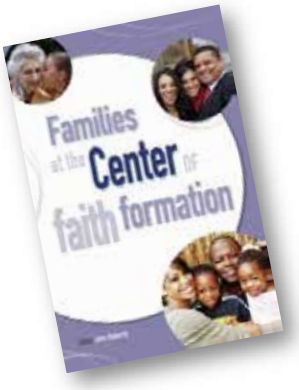

"A milestone is an action or event marking a significant change or stage in development. These life and faith markers can provide important times for engaging families when they are most open to change and growth."
– John Roberto

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Milestones celebrated in the congregation

Connecting the meaningful, memorable moments in our lives to God's presence in those moments.

Adding scripture, prayer, and a blessing makes this a faith formation moment and becomes part of our faith journey.

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Milestones celebrated in the congregation

- Baptism
- Communion
- First Bible
- Confirmation
- Beginning Religious Instruction
- Graduation

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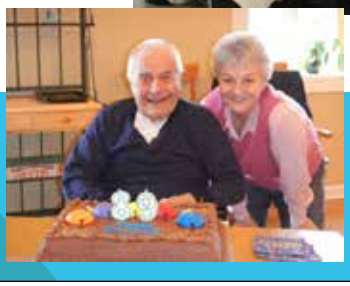
What milestones do we recognize in our homes and in everyday living?

- Getting a Driver's License
- New Home
- Family Reunion
- Loss of a Pet
- First Cell Phone
- Birthdays



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Why aren't we all in the same place in our faith journeys?

- Faith Formation is like learning a language
- Not everyone is fluent because they haven't been immersed in it
- One hour a week does not do it

Why is it important for faith formation to happen in the home?

- The home is an essential part of our faith formation.
- Like learning a language, it is where we are immersed in it
- How do we encourage faith formation in the home?
- Milestones is a good place to start!

Where do we start?

Name it!

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1. Name it

Identify a moment as significant to one's life and faith directly related to the name of the Milestone Ministry event.

2. Equip it

Provide support, modeling, and resources to help people experience a milestone in life as an opportunity to again embrace the grace of God in Christ

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3. Bless it

Offer a prayer in a worship service, cross+generational event, and/or the small group or home event to embrace people's lives with the grace, mercy, and peace of God in Christ.

4. Gift it

Provide a gift to help the participants recall a particular milestone in their lives with faith, hope, and love

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5. Reinforce it

Offer a follow up event to help deepen the faith formation impact of the Milestone Ministry experience. Encourage and support faith practices recommended at the initial Milestone event and, when helpful, explore new ones.

1. Name it
2. Equip it
3. Bless it
4. Gift it
5. Reinforce it

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An important ingredient…
establish faith practices!

Four Key Faith Practices

1. Caring Conversations
2. Devotions
3. Service
4. Rituals and Traditions

FAITH5

1. Share
2. Read
3. Talk
4. Pray
5. Bless

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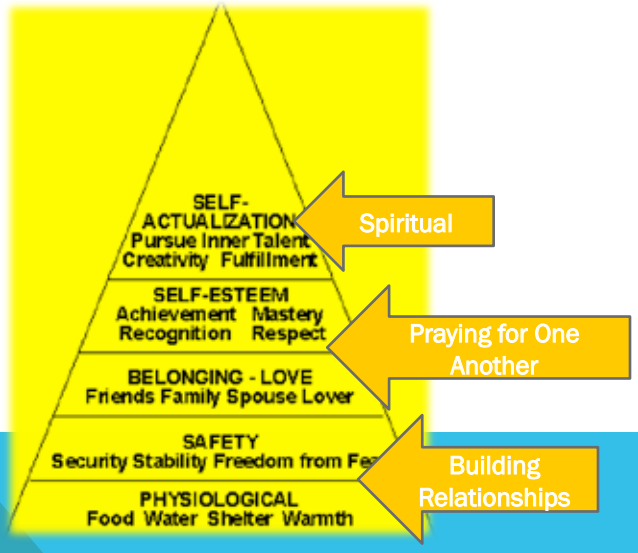
Maslow Hierarchy of Needs



THE GOAL:

- Lifelong Faith Formation
- Relationships over Programs
- Be Strategic for the World, not the Congregation

EXAMPLES OF FORMING FAITH THROUGH MILESTONES

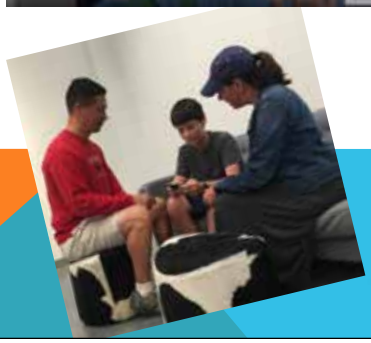
CONGREGATION, COMMUNITY, HOME, AND DIGITAL WORLD

Congregation Example

Community Example

Home Example

Digital Example



Skype
Google Hang Out
Face Time

Let's do it!

1. Name it
2. Equip it
3. Bless it
4. Gift it
5. Reinforce it

How will you form faith through milestones?

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How will you…..?

Be Intentional

Set Expectations

Plan for Accountability

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