

Adult Milestones

Books for Leaders

Trouble Printing Taking Faith Home  
2015-16?

Lent and Taking Faith Home



## Trouble Printing?

**The 2015-16 version of Taking Faith Home has posed issues for some when printing.**

It has been brought to our attention that in some cases, Taking Faith Home does not align properly when printed. We have been listening and trying to resolve this issue.

Our solution has been to update the existing version and change the gray areas to black for easy reading and to change the font size under the prayers so that it will align properly.

In cases where printing was offset we found in order to print properly, one needs to change the setting for the PDF to borderless. In the majority of cases, there has not been a problem.

We apologize if this has caused an inconvenience for you.

**How do I get an updated copy if I have had printing issues?**

## Milestones Happen Throughout Life

Adults need occasions to be supported in lifelong faith formation



## 12 Milestones in the Lives of Adults

Milestones Ministry provides a clear and usable model for congregations, homes and communities to connect faith formation resources with daily life experiences. Each Milestones Ministry module features a consistent outline that provides the opportunity for the congregation to grow in faith through the Four Keys faith practices of Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions.

Every time a milestone is experienced, the modules offer planning tips and reinforcement ideas to help guide people in essential faith practices both in the congregation and at home. The intent is that celebrating these milestones becomes a way of life for people and outreach for congregations.

Each module begins with an overview, featuring bullet points for desired outcomes and a brief explanation of the content. The

Please contact Debbie Streicher at [dstreicher@milestonesministry.org](mailto:dstreicher@milestonesministry.org) and she will get files to you through either Dropbox, Google, or sending a CD.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to strive to find the easiest way possible for you to get this valuable faith formation resource in the hands of those in your congregation.

## Suggested Uses for Taking Faith Home During Lent

There are seasons of the church year when establishing and encouraging faith practices is well received. One season is Advent. Another is Lent. It is never too late!

- Use as a bulletin insert
- Send in an email to family and friends
- Post on a website
- Post Caring Conversations on a FB page
- Gather in homes once a week to do together
- Use during a visit to shut-ins and the elderly
- Use during Skype or Facetime with friends and relatives once a week

After doing any of the above, gather everyone together following Easter and share stories about how Taking Faith Home was used as a faith formation resource during Lent.

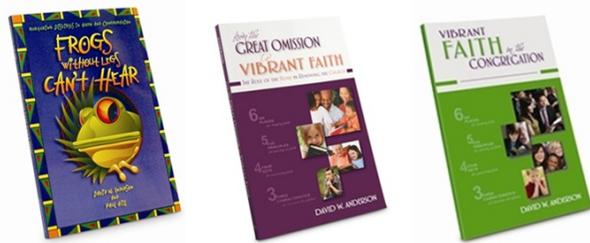
Follow up is essential and a good way to help walk beside all ages as we seek to establish faith practices in the congregation and in the home in the best interest of lifelong faith formation.

overview also includes a description of the Four Keys faith practices embedded in each event. Each module lists the benefits of celebrating milestones in the home and congregation and identifies the elements of marking a milestone (naming, equipping, blessing, gifting and reinforcing). Ideas for reinforcement and a "check-in" activity are included as a way to provide accountability and ongoing support.

12 Adult Milestones - [Click here for more information](#)

User Guide for Adult Milestones Ministries - [Click here](#)

## Leadership Books



The Rev. Dr. David W. Anderson has authored three great leadership books that are relevant in the church today as we seek to grow effective congregation-home partnerships.

### Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear

An existing challenge for church leaders is to shift the center of faith formation from the congregation into a shared center involving the home and ministry in daily life. The end result is a stronger congregation-home partnership.

### From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith

Parents play the most important role in the vibrant faith formation of their children. Yet, many congregations fail to equip parents and other caring adults with the tools they need to nurture and grow the faith of the young people in their churches. The good news is that it is not too late to fix this problem.

### Vibrant Faith in the Congregation

A Faith Frame of 5 Principles for living and passing on faith, 4 Keys for practicing faith, and 3 Characteristics for Christians helps connect all of a congregation's programs into one ministry, rather than having several disconnected activities under one roof. As a result, congregations stay focused on two foundational tasks in everything they do: Christian faith formation and community outreach.

All three are found in the Milestones Ministry store. [Click here.](#)

FEBRUARY 10, 2016  
ASH WEDNESDAY



Turn your heart to God.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

Read and reflect on these readings as part of your personal or household devotional times in the coming days.

|               |                          |                             |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ash Wednesday | Matthew 6:1-6:16-21      | Giving, praying and fasting |
| Thursday      | 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 | Messengers of Christ        |
| Friday        | Joel 2:1-2:12-17         | A call to repentance        |
| Saturday      | Psalm 51:1-17            | Have mercy, O God           |
| Sunday        | Luke 4:1-13              | The temptation of Jesus     |

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

"Turn back to me with broken hearts. I am merciful, kind and caring. I don't easily lose my temper, and I don't like to punish." Joel 2:13 (CEV)

**SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for This Holy Day:**  
God, create pure hearts in us. Give us new spirits that are faithful to you. Amen. (Psalm 51:10)

**Milestones Prayer:**  
Lord God, as Lent begins today we turn to you for help. Nurture us with this Word so that we may be strong to love you and others with love and kindness. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**  
May God wash away all your sins. May God give you a clean heart and a new and faithful spirit. Amen. (Psalm 51:10)



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FEBRUARY 10, 2016  
ASH WEDNESDAY



**LIVING CONVERSATIONS**

- Discuss in your home or small group.
- Share about a time when you said "sorry" to someone. What happened? why do we need to say "sorry" to God? Do you find it easy or hard to apologize to God?
- What does God promise to do when we confess our sins to him?

**DEVOTIONS**

Discuss in your home or small group. The association of this day with ashes goes back to the sixth century. For hundreds of years, Christians have received ashes on their heads as a reminder of their mortality and to symbolize their sorrow for sin. As a household, participate together in a home ashes ritual. Prepare in advance a small bowl of ashes to use.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is the first day of the church season of Lent. The association of this day with ashes goes back to the sixth century. For hundreds of years, Christians have received ashes on their heads as a reminder of their mortality and to symbolize their sorrow for sin. As a household, participate together in a home ashes ritual. Prepare in advance a small bowl of ashes to use.  
**Bible Reading:** Genesis 3:1-9, Matthew 4:1-11  
**All you:** God, as we enter the season of Lent today, we confess our need for a Savior. Prepare our hearts and minds throughout this season so that we may grow in loving others, showing thanks for how your Son has loved and saved us. Amen.  
**Lent:** Let us now mark one another with ashes as a sign of sorrow for our sin, and our trust in Jesus to save us.  
Take turns in making the sign of the cross with ashes on one another's foreheads, saying these words: "O Lord, you are, and to God you shall return. Repent and look to see your Savior."  
**Conclusion:** Read Psalm 51:13-18

**SERVICE**

Listening to others is an act of loving service. Make a point of listening carefully as you share conversations. Be mindful that you may be hearing the voice of God as you listen.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**  
To mark the beginning of Lent, set aside a period of time this week to "unplug" from technology and social media. Choose not to watch TV or use computers and other electronic devices for leisure purposes. Eat simple foods and drink only water. Have a time of silence in your household during which you reflect on the gift of God and your relationship with God.

In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)



# "Grow the church by growing people in faith."

Visit our website: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org) and like us on [Facebook](#) page and join us for conversations on our [Facebook group page](#).

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*The Milestones Ministry Mission is to provide congregations and households with resources and coaching services to nurture the Christian faith and reach out to others with the love of God in Christ.*

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