

July 4th Free Download

Taking Faith Home Pro-Rated for Trial Run

Vacations as Prime Time to Build Relationships

Facebook Pages - Join us!



## Vacations as a Prime Time to Build Relationships

**Vacation Milestone Moment**

Milestones Ministry brings an awareness of the presence of God to individuals of all generations by recognizing the home as church, too. A Milestones Moment brings family and friends together to mark a special time in their lives and to acknowledge and affirm God's presence in their midst. Milestones Moments provide a model for connecting significant occasions in people's lives with the ongoing journey of faith.

Any time away from daily routines to travel with a vacation destination in mind is filled with potential faith-shaping moments. In fact, one could consider most any journey away from the shelter and security of one's home as a kind of pilgrimage where one experiences the presence of God in life more clearly.

A vacation offers time to have an adventure together in new settings. One learns about God's creation, different cultures, and the challenges to make decisions each day. Journeying together is meant to be fun and needs the added ingredients of kindness, patience, and forgiveness. With this in mind, any vacation can be experienced as a Christian pilgrimage where people grow together through the grace of God.

Even the most active and entertaining trip can be blessed with subtle moments to give thanks for the generosity and grace of God. Whether the trip is filled with numerous scheduled activities or more of a retreat, the goal will be to return to one's home with enriched relationships and a sense of renewal. The Vacation Milestone Moment can be used prior to the beginning of the trip, during the journey, and also once it is over.

**Four Keys for Practicing Faith:** Caring Conversations, Levitations, Service, Rituals and Traditions.

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## Taking Faith Home on July 4th

We invite you to download and use the special edition Taking Faith Home bulletin insert for July 4th to share with family, friends, and neighboring congregations too! [\(download here\)](#)



## Not familiar with Taking Faith Home and want to give it a trial run? September is a good time to begin.

We are once again offering a free Taking Faith Home edition. Please copy and use the 4th of July bulletin insert or email to friends and family to make it available in your congregation. We also invite you to pass along this free copy to other congregations and encourage them to use it as well, especially if you or someone you know has been thinking about giving it a try.

Many of us are challenged with discovering ways to help households continue what begins on Sunday morning during worship to happen as an ongoing conversation and devotion in the home. Each Taking Faith Home devotion is based on the Revised Common Lectionary so for those congregations using the lectionary, this is a way to keep faith talk going in homes all week long.

From our experience and stories we have heard from congregations using this bulletin insert, **Milestones Ministry suggests that for those who want to give it a try, they can begin in**

Summer is an excellent time to build relationships with family and with others too. An important element on our continuing faith journeys is to be intentional about providing time for caring conversations, prayer, and blessings. Many of us take at least one vacation during the summer and this gives us an excellent time to introduce powerful ways to build relationships and strengthen existing ones.

Milestones Ministry recently published our newest Milestone Moment for family vacations, pilgrimages, and special times we take to be away from our normal routines.

Vacation Resource Suggestions:

- [The Vacation Milestone Moment](#)

- [Faith Talk Cards](#)
- [Taking Faith Home](#)
- [Blessing Bowl, Mat, and Stones for Memorable Moments](#)



## Facebook Pages

Milestones Ministry maintains two Facebook pages. One is for our Organization updates and the other is the Group page where we invite you to ask questions and contribute to the conversation.

Stay tuned for "Facebook Party" dates where we have open forums on faith formation topics on the Group page.

[Organization Page](#) - Like us!

[Group Page](#) - Join us!

We would love to see your stories about growing in faith on group page.

**September. Why wait until then?** Because we pro-rate the pricing throughout the year and on September 1st, the final quarter, **the cost will be reduced to \$19.95** for September through November editions. Fall is a wonderful time in the life of the church to introduce this valuable resource for the home.

You probably would not drive a car without a test drive. We invite you to get more information and to get a feel for Taking Faith Home:

1. Download the one for July 4th at no cost. [Click here.](#)
2. Download the User Guide. [Click here.](#)
3. Download the Tips for Leaders. [Click here.](#)

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and encourage those who are using it to send us stories and feedback from those using it for small groups and in the home.

## Summer plans...

### Trips to Norway and to New Orleans

David and Gloria Anderson will be hosting a pilgrimage to Norway in August. With David's connections to the Lutheran church in Norway, this trip should be a wonderful and fascinating opportunity for those accompanying them. Not only will they visit beautiful sites, but also meet with leaders of the church of Norway. We wish them safe travels and many blessings and look forward to seeing posts and pictures on our Facebook pages.

Debbie Streicher will co-host a workshop with the Rev. Janelle Hooper (ELCA Program Director for Ministry with Children) in New Orleans at [The Grace Gathering](#) in August. Stay tuned for pictures and posts.

Burt Streicher will be busy getting resources ready for the coming year and hold the fort down for us. Many thanks to Burt for keeping Milestones Ministry on task so that we can schedule, produce, and provide resources for home and congregation.

***"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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