

**Milestones for the Summer: Bible Camp and Mission Trip**

**Bible Camp and Mission Trip Gifting Stones**

**Vacation Milestone Moment**

**Ascension Day Taking Faith Home Free Download**



## Vacation Milestone Moment

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 sabbath moments to give thanks for the generosity and peace 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

**Bible Camp Milestone:**  
Feeling God's Comfort in Outdoor Ministry

**Desired Outcomes**

- Encourage children and youth emotionally, relationally and spiritually as they have their first Bible camp experience.
- Partner home and congregation in supporting children and youth as they risk leaving secure surroundings and relationships to experience God's love and call to the Christian life.
- Reinforce the Bible camp experience as a step toward becoming Christ's servants in the larger world.

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**Mission Trip Milestone:**  
Community Blessings at Home and Away

**Desired Outcomes**

- Experience the mission trip as a faith journey to serve although traveled by only a few.
- Support those on the mission trip with prayer from the home community.
- Encourage new places, people and experiences in a unique faith journey.
- Learn to serve others in an important Christian practice while gaining insights into how others live and experience God in their own lives.
- Gain a new understanding and appreciation of the Christian faith.

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## Milestones for the Summer: Bible Camp and Mission Trip

### Bible Camp Milestone *Feeling God's Comfort in Outdoor ministry*

Outdoor ministry is a memorable, formative, and vital part of a child's faith journey. The experience of going away to camp can renew and enhance spiritual growth. It is an opportunity to teach children and youth in an intense and meaningful setting. The camp staff becomes role models. The children witness the faith lives of these young adults as well as that of peers and other mentors who participate in the camp experience.

Camp gives congregations an opportunity to do group and community building. It has been shown that if children and youth are given the opportunity to experience camp that later in life they are more willing to go away to camp, servant events, and other youth activities with the youth leaders of their congregation.

be used prior to the beginning of the trip, during the journey, and also once it is over.

At the heart of this Vacation Milestone Moment are the Four Key Faith Practices. These four daily faith practices are simple, doable, and practical: Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions. Use these faith practices as part of your vacation.

The cost is \$2.95. It is reproducible in the local setting and can also be sent to families in the congregation in an email.

[To order and download, click here.](#)

**Milestone Idea:** Make copies of the Vacation Milestone Moment and place in a gallon plastic bag with a postcard, key chain, or other gift to take on the vacation as a reminder of this occasion. At the end of the summer, host a gathering to share stories.

## Ascension Day Taking Faith Home Free Download



Ascension Day

Thursday, May 25th is Ascension Day. It is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday.

The Bible Camp Milestone is included in the Child and Youth Milestones Ministry Manual and also available as an individual Milestone. All Milestones are reproducible.

[Individual Module.](#)

[Child and Youth Milestones Ministry Manual](#)

### Mission Trip Milestone *Community Blessings at Home and Away*

This Milestone Ministry event will emphasize the blessings of community: the congregational community that will be left behind for a period of time; the community that will travel together for the mission trip; and the community that will be met during the mission trip.

As part of this Milestones Ministry event, each person traveling on the mission trip is given a journal with a picture of that person with his/her prayer and action partner. The people serving as prayer and action partners are the people, in addition to family and other friends, who will be kept updated about the traveler's activities and who will respond with daily prayers for the sojourners. The sojourners, in turn, will log their experiences during the trip to help them focus on the faith-forming opportunities they are having and to guide their prayers and reflections during the mission trip.

The Mission Trip Milestone is included in the Child and Youth Milestones Ministry Manual A and also available as an individual Milestone. All Milestones are reproducible.

[Individual Module](#)

[Child and Youth Milestones Ministry Manual](#)



Mission Trip Gifting Stone



Bible Camp Gifting Stone

## Bible Camp and Mission Trip Gifting Stones

This day marks the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection. In Acts 1:9 it states that Jesus ascended into a cloud. Clouds represent a biblical image for the presence of God.

**A suggestion:**

Go outside to see if there are any clouds. If so, notice what shapes you can find. There is an old tradition that the clouds on Ascension Day take the form of lambs, in honor of the Lamb of God. Say these words, "Jesus has ascended, but he will return! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!".

**Another suggestion:**

[Click here to download a free copy of the Ascension Day Taking Faith Home](#) and make copies and/or email to those in the congregation to share with family and friends on Thursday, May 25th.

One of the [five stages for planning](#) a Milestone is "Gifting":

- Giving a visual reminder to help the milestone moment be recalled again and again
- Providing a gift as a visible sign that gives witness to one's faith

These beautiful Gifting Stones are handcrafted by [Dawn Deines-Christensen](#), our Milestones Ministry artist and potter and available in the Milestones Ministry store. They are designed for these particular Milestones and make an excellent gift for all involved. The cost per stone is \$2.25.

[Click here to see more about the Bible Camp Stone.](#)

[Click here to see more about the Mission Trip Stone.](#)



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

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Milestones Ministry,LLC Website - [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

David Anderson - [danderson@milestonesministry.org](mailto:danderson@milestonesministry.org)

Debbie Streicher - [dstreicher@milestonesministry.org](mailto:dstreicher@milestonesministry.org)

*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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