

Taking Faith Home Year Cycle A, 2019-2020, Now Available

Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone Module

Taking Faith Home Year Cycle C Partial Download, September 1 - November 28, 2019

Back to School Milestone Moment

Back to School-Blessing of Backpacks-Beginning School Gifting Stone

Beginning School Milestone Moment



Recognizing God's presence in everyday moments.



Back to School Milestone Moment

This Milestone Moment allows for a special time to mark returning to school and the beginning of the school year as part of the life of faith.

The beginning of a school year is an important time to connect students with family and friends in a supportive environment that brings together personal stories, hopes, fears, and the life of faith. Students and parents may be anxious and new schedules and activities may need to be clarified and woven into daily routines. Time with family and friends will often change from summer to fall schedules. All of this and more creates an awareness of a new beginning that needs to be

DECEMBER 1, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Advent is the season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS
These passages are related to the lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The coming of salvation
Monday	Isaiah 23:5	Peace that lasts forever
Tuesday	Romans 13:11-14	The day when Christ returns
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-7	The great faith of God's people
Thursday	Psalms 125	A song of trust in God
Friday	1 John 1:5-10	God is light
Saturday	Psalms 122	A song of praise
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!
Isaiah 2:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING
A Prayer for the Week:
Lord Jesus Christ, you who are the light of the world, guide our steps to walk in your light. Amen.
Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, may we eat and drink with thankful hearts this day, for all that you provide every day and in every way. Amen.
A Blessing to Give:
May all go well with you and may peace be within you, through Christ our light and our salvation.

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DECEMBER 1, 2019
HYMN OF THE WEEK
This Little Light of Mine

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Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

WEEKLY MILESTONES
CARING CONVERSATIONS
Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflection:
• Talk or think about a time you were waiting for someone or something with excitement.
• Advent means *arrival* or *coming*. How do you get ready for the coming of Jesus?
• In dark times Jesus brings light and hope. How do you experience hope?

DEVOTIONS
Read: Isaiah 2:1-5
Advent is a season of hope and anticipation of God's action to redeem and save the world. That is Isaiah's message. But, Isaiah sees what others do not. Isaiah sees Jerusalem as the highest mountain, but Psalm 122:3 sees other peaks as higher. Isaiah sees the people walking in the paths of the LORD's teaching, but before and after Isaiah 2, judgment is announced for the people's disobedience. Isaiah sees weapons of violence and destruction that are turned into farming tools, but the nations of Israel and Judah were utterly destroyed by its neighbors. The message of Isaiah is a message of hope that the Christian faith holds to while acknowledging and so are still seen every day of our lives. What hope do you cling to as a follower of Jesus?
Pray: Come Lord Jesus, come and bring peace between nations. May we see the light of your glory in all the world. Amen.

SERVICE
In Psalm 122:8 it says: "For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.'" During this season of hope, list ways you can give hope to those who are sad or anxious and help them to feel "the peace within." How will you choose to let your light shine through acts of service to others during the four weeks of Advent?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS
Set up or make an Advent wreath for your home. There are four candles in a circle on the wreath and one in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God. The four candles are often blue to signify the hope of the Advent season. The center candle is white; it represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This first week you will light one candle. Say: "This is the first week of Advent. Advent means 'coming.' We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of hope. (Light one candle)"
Read: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)
Response: Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us hope.
Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope. May we walk in the light of the Lord and live in peace with all that you have made. Amen.

In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to www.milestonesministry.org

Taking Faith Home Year Cycle A, 2019-2020 Now Available

Year Cycle A begins on December 1, 2019. Taking Faith Home weekly bulletin inserts are available now as a download or as a CD. They can help your congregation build a more solid faith foundation by providing content that sparks conversation, inspires effective evangelism, introduces Christian rituals and traditions, encourages family faith formation, and unites generations.

This series of 63 bulletin inserts which cover 1 December 2019 through 26 November 2020 is based on the Revised Common Lectionary Year A, and features; a short theme statement to capture the

marked as a time of transition for many people, not simply just the students.

[Back to School Milestone Moment](#)



Back to School Blessing of Backpacks Beginning School Gifting Stone

This individually hand-crafted Stone is made of durable glazed pottery which can last a lifetime. At about 1.5 inches, it is sized to fit in a pocket, blessing bowl, or a faith chest.

This stone complements the Blessing of Backpacks, Back to School, and/or Beginning School Milestones.

This Stone for Gifting is a wonderful keepsake to help children and youth remember, as they begin the school year, that God's care, love, and support is always with them.

[School Gifting Stone](#)



Beginning School Milestone Moment

Attending school for the first time is an important moment to connect children with family and friends in a supportive environment that brings together

week's focus; suggested daily Bible readings; a key scripture verse that relates to the theme; weekly prayers and a blessing to use during the week; a suggested hymn that relates to the theme; a weekly milestone sharing moment of mountain highs and/or valley lows; and examples of each of the Four Key Faith Formation practices (caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals and traditions) that complement that week's theme.

[Year Cycle A Download](#)

[Year Cycle A CD](#)



Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone Module

Many congregations have found the blessing of backpacks to be a very meaningful way to mark the passage of summer. It is a helpful transition for children, youth, and adults to the new fall schedule. It is also an opportunity to discover God's presence with us at home, school and work, and to be reminded that Jesus is always with us.

Although the original and central thrust of the Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone is to reach out to children and youth who are going back to school, it really serves a larger purpose and population. People of all ages are going back to school as student or staff. Some will be pursuing a GED or college degree or some kind of technical training for the workplace.

[Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone Module](#)



Taking Faith Home Year Cycle C

personal stories, hopes, fears, and the life of faith. Children and parents may both be anxious about this significant time in their lives as there will be new schedules woven into daily routines. Time with family and friends will change as a child spends a large part of the day in school now. This creates an awareness of a new beginning that needs to be marked as a time of transition for many people, not just the child who will begin school.

This Milestone Moment allows for a special time to mark the beginning of school as part of the life of faith.

[Beginning School Milestone Moment](#)

Partial Download September 1 - November 28, 2019

This partial series of 16 bulletin inserts which covers 1 September 2019 through 28 November 2019 is based on the Revised Common Lectionary Year C

For those who have never tried using Taking Faith Home as a bulletin insert, this is a good time to introduce it to the congregation. \$19.95 is the price for weekly bulletin inserts for the rest of the church year.

Want to learn more?

Download the [Leader's Guide](#) and the [User Guide](#).

[Partial Download](#)

Visit our website: 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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