



Growing
FAITH
moments

High School Graduation

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of equipping people for their lifelong faith formation are these four key faith practices: **Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions.** As you celebrate a young person's graduation from high school use this resource as an opportunity to capture the memories and learning that has occurred over the past 13 years. Let this High School Graduation **Growing Faith Moment** be a time to reflect on their schooling years and to look forward to their future calling.

This moment can take place in a small group or around the family table. It could also be adapted and used during worship as a public marking of this milestone, with prayer and blessing for future plans.



Caring Conversations

Invite the young person to share their answers to one or a number of the following questions:

- Talk about one of your earliest memories of school.
- What do you think you will remember from this year when you're 70?
- In ten years where do you think you will be?
- What are you most looking forward to next year?

Devotions



He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Discuss what their plans are for next year - a gap year, going to University or TAFE for continued studies, traveling, working, apprenticeship etc. Invite them to share how they can they see their walk with God unfolding.

Discuss the verse from Micah. Which of the three requirements from God are easy for them? Which one will be the hardest to fulfil?

Invite the people present to offer some words of encouragement by sharing what they observe this young person's gifts to be, and how their future vocation will use these gifts.

Service



Invite these young people to think about ways they can be involved in the life of their church, whether they are moving away to a new church community or staying in their current church. How can their gifts be used within the church community?

Rituals and Traditions



Gather the people present around the young person. Invite them to place their hands on the young person's head or shoulders for the following prayer and blessing.

Pray:

Dear God, as (name) finishes high school may he/she look fondly on these past years with thankfulness for the education he/she has received. May he/she find ways to use his/her gifts as he/she discerns his/her future vocation and finds ways to serve in his/her church. Amen.

Bless:

May you be blessed as you share your knowledge and the gifts you have with the world. Amen.

Gift:

Give this young person a gift that will help them remember the marking of this milestone in their lives.

Here are some suggestions:

- A scrapbook of memories from school.
- A framed photo of their first and last day of school.
- A celebration dinner with the family and close friends.

For more information about the Growing Faith Moments and other resources for ministry to children, youth and their families, please contact:

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