



Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
 — Philippians 4:6

Coronavirus Conversations Milestone Moment

Spring of 2020 has the world gripped in a new emerging widespread infectious coronavirus disease. Coronaviruses are named for their crown-like shape and are common in many species of animals. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, several coronaviruses can infect people. Cold-like symptoms can sometimes progress to more complicated respiratory tract illnesses, especially in the elderly and immune compromised.

Schools, restaurants, bars, theaters, sporting events, and gyms are being closed around the country. Some worship services are being canceled. All ages are being asked to stay in their homes unless absolutely necessary to go out. The president has declared a national emergency and has announced guidelines for Americans to observe in the coming days. There are many unknowns, fears, concerns, and much stress surrounding this disease.

Social media and online venues have become an effective way for sustaining classes and having meetings. The new normal for the home is spending time together. It is an unusual and unexpected break from busy schedules.

The Coronavirus Conversations Milestone Moment is an opportunity for family and friends to gather together in their homes or virtually to verbalize worries and concerns. It is a time to pray and bless one another. It is a difficult time for all and conversations can be reassuring and helpful.

The Coronavirus Conversations Milestone Moment provides an opportunity for families and friends to discuss and talk about the pandemic and to recognize God's presence. This Milestone Moment uses a simple structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestone Moment has a greater chance to take deeper root and nurture lifelong faith formation.

Naming – Taking time to talk to one another about fears and concerns as schools, restaurants, and other public places are closed because of health concerns allows us to have meaningful conversations about the coronavirus pandemic and the Christian faith.

Equipping – Providing an opportunity to have caring conversations, read scripture, and pray together builds a Christian connectedness, reassurance, and strengthens faith lives.

Blessing – Offering a blessing can calm fears and anxiety surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

Gifting – Writing prayers or designing a bookmark about your faith to place in your Bible is a gift to yourself and others as a reminder of this time.

Reinforcing – Staying in touch with those most deeply affected by the coronavirus through prayer and acts of kindness is an effective follow-up to this moment.

 Caring Conversations
  Devotions
  Four Key Faith Practices
  Service
  Rituals and Traditions





Coronavirus Conversations Milestone Moment

For a Small Group or Family Gathering



Growing People in Faith when at Home and Away

“and talk about them when you are at home and when away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

– Deuteronomy 6:7b

A follow-up for the Coronavirus Conversations Milestone Moment can be done with caring conversations and prayers during the remaining time that social activities, schools, and worship are canceled. It gives family and friends the opportunity to build and strengthen relationships and talk about the importance of recognizing God in this moment.

An important step after experiencing the Four Key Faith Practices in a small group or home setting is to bless and equip friends and families by using faith practices daily as an intentional step to encourage faith traditions in the home.

A suggested resource for continued caring conversations:

*[Taking Faith Home](#)
[Taking Faith Home Cards](#)
[For Everything A Season Book](#)*

*Additional Milestone Modules and Moments can be found at:
www.milestonesministry.org*



At the heart of equipping people for their lifelong faith formation are the Four Key Faith Practices: Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions. They provide an opportunity for people to learn, experience, and grow in their faith together. The next page is a discussion guide handout to assist with the conversations.



As you gather together, begin by sharing a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your lives and then use the outline below to talk about faith and God’s presence in this moment.



Caring Conversations

Discuss these thoughts and questions:

- What concerns you about the coronavirus pandemic?
- With restaurants, gyms, and theaters closed, how do you spend your time?
- When worship services are canceled, in what way can you worship in your home?



Devotions

Read the following:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Matthew 6:25-30 (NRSV)

- What message do you hear in this reading related to the affect the coronavirus has had on our lives?
- How has the coronavirus impacted your faith life?



Service

There are many who are elderly or immune compromised. During this time of the coronavirus pandemic, it is important they stay at home and be quarantined from others. In what way can you help a neighbor who may be in need of food or supplies at this time?



Rituals and Traditions

Pray together: The Lord’s Prayer.

Conclude by blessing one another:

May God take away your worries and fill you with peace through Christ our Lord.



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— **Philippians 4:6**

Coronavirus Conversations Discussion Guide



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