



BEGINNING SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

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.**

As you celebrate this very exciting time in your child's life, may you also embrace the wonderful learning opportunities ahead. Let this Beginning School **Growing Faith Moment** be a time to share in a new adventure. This moment can take place in a small group or around the family table.



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Invite the child to share their answers to the following questions:

- What will be the best thing about starting school?
- What are you are really looking forward to learning about?



DEVOTIONS

Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge rather than pure gold. Proverbs 8:10

Discuss the reasons why we need to learn.

We learn something new almost every day, even when we are older. Talk about how there are things like reading and maths that your child can't do yet and how exciting it will be when they learn how to do something new. School is an excellent place to learn how to do new things and also share what you know.



SERVICE

If it is not distracting for your child's transition and the teacher is receptive, find out how you can volunteer in the classroom. If you are a seasoned parent of school-aged children, you could help to organise a morning tea for the new parents as they bring their first child to school.



RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Gather those present around the child. Invite everyone to place their hands on the child's head or shoulders for the following prayer and blessing.

PRAY: Dear God, As (name) begins school we ask that you fill him/her with a sense of joy for this new and exciting experience. Give him/her peace and courage as he/she finds new friends and learns all about his/her new classroom, teacher and school. We ask for a special blessing on (name's) teacher as they begin the school year with a new class of students. Amen.

BLESS: May you be filled with joy and peace on this special day.

GIFTING: Give the child a gift that will help them remember the marking of this milestone in their lives. Here are some suggestions:

- A new backpack and school supplies.
- A water bottle.
- A school photo frame with space for 13 photos, one for each year of school.

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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