



BACK TO 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 students begin another school year take time to reflect on the blessing of education. Let this Back to School **Growing Faith Moment** be a time to get excited about the year ahead.



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Invite the young people to share their answers to one or a number of the following questions.

- Share a highlight of the summer holidays
- What are you most looking forward to in this coming school year?
- Do you have a favourite subject?



DEVOTIONS

If you have good sense, instruction will help you to have even better sense. And if you live right, education will help you to know even more. Proverbs 9:9

Talk about how blessed we are to be able to attend school and learn. Think of places and situations where attending school may be difficult or impossible.

Discuss how you persevere when you find it hard to learn something. How does it feel when you understand a new concept or learn something you never knew before?

For older students: Share some thoughts about what you will do with your new knowledge and education when you are finished with school.



SERVICE

Our lives are filled with learning both in and out of school. Is there someone that your student could help with their learning?

Could they be a study buddy to someone if they have a particular gift in a subject area?

Could they read to someone in a younger grade? Could they teach you, as parents, something new they have learned?



RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

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

PRAY: Dear God, you have blessed us with a wonderful brain that wants to learn. You have given us rules and instructions to keep ourselves and one another safe. Help us to find ways to share our knowledge and be wise in our decisions. Amen.

BLESS: May you share your wisdom and love with the world.

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

- New school books and supplies.
- Keyring to hang on their bag.
- New lunch box or water bottle.

If this becomes an annual Growing Faith Moment you might like to keep a diary page to see how the young person's future job/career ideas change. Save a favourite piece of work from each year or subject as a keepsake.

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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