



BEGINNING HIGH 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 exciting moment in your child's school life take time to focus on the new learning opportunities ahead. Let this Beginning High School **Growing Faith Moment** be a time to be thankful for knowledge.



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Invite the young person to share their answers to one or more of the following questions.

- What are you most looking forward to in High School?
- What do you think your favourite subjects will be?
- Are you concerned about anything?



DEVOTIONS

Wisdom brings strength, and knowledge gives power. Proverbs 24:5

How does wisdom bring strength? What power do we have with knowledge?

Discuss how high school will be different to primary school. Talk about how the learning will be more independent and that each subject will most likely have a different teacher with different styles and expectations. Talk about making new friends and trying new subjects as they are offered.

Encourage an older sibling or family friend to talk about their experience of beginning high school.



SERVICE

Usually in high school there isn't as much opportunity for parental participation in the classroom but perhaps there is a different way families and friends can support the school and be involved to provide the best learning environment for the students and staff.



RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

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

PRAY: Dear Lord Jesus, Thank you for the new school year. Please be with (name) as he/she begins a new stage of his/her school life. Provide him/her with the wisdom he/she needs to be a good student and make the most of the opportunities this high school can offer him/her. In your name we pray, Amen.

BLESS: May you be blessed as you gain new knowledge and wisdom. Amen.

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 bag.
- New lunch box or water bottle.
- Keyring and house keys if making their own way home from 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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