

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
 — Eleanor Roosevelt

Graduation Milestone Moment Online

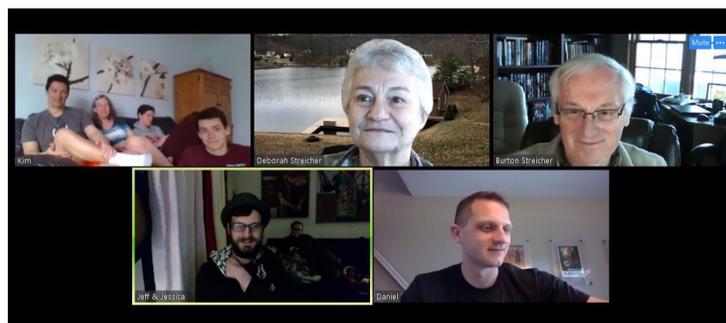
Sometimes it is not possible for families and friends to physically gather together to celebrate a special occasion. This Graduation Milestone Moment Online provides desired outcomes, suggestions, and a discussion guide to use for an online celebration of a graduation. A graduation gifting stone is shown as a possible inexpensive send-ahead gift to remind the graduate of the online celebration. Just because families cannot get together in person does not mean they can not still share the joy of this important life milestone and recognize God’s presence in the moment.

Desired Outcomes:

- Provide a discussion guide for faith-filled conversations to have online with the graduate to recognize God in this moment.
- Celebrate this special time in one’s life when graduation ceremonies are being canceled or rescheduled due to mandatory stay at home restrictions.
- Experience prayers and blessings from family and friends that provide a memorable moment for the graduate.
- Send messages of love and support by creatively using online resources that surround the graduate with the love and grace of God.

Suggestions:

- Be creative! Send gifts ahead of time to the graduate that can be opened while you are meeting.
- Use Zoom, Google, House Party, or other online venue to meet with family and friends.
- Send a picture that all can use as a fun virtual background to celebrate this occasion.
- Design a slide show of pictures (maybe set to music) of the graduate.
- Invite all participants to pre-record a message for the graduate and show the videos during the time you meet.
- Build a gameshow with multiple choice questions about the graduate’s life for all to have fun guessing the correct answer. A good site for this is kahoot.com.
- Provide a graduation cap and gown the graduate can wear or a special T-shirt.





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Graduation Discussion Guide



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 are some memorable stories of [graduate’s name or “my”] previous years of schooling?
- What is something you look forward to within the next year?
- In 10 years, I predict [graduate’s name or “I”] will be looking forward to ...



Devotions

Read the following:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NRSV)

- Where will you be “walking” in the next year?
- What word in this reading jumps out to you when you think of the coming year? Explain.



Service

God’s love is shown through acts of service. Consider what acts of service you can do with friends and/or roommates while away from home. Whether you live at home or have moved away, consider what acts of service you can do with friends and/or family to help others.



Rituals and Traditions

Invite each person on screen to light a candle, or show a candle digitally on the screen. Ask each person to say a short prayer for the graduate by completing one of these, “God I pray for...” or “God I am thankful for...” or “God, I hope...”

Pray together:

God of creation, pour out your Spirit on _____ as he/she enters a new period of life and faith. Be with _____ as he/she begins new ventures knowing you have blessed him/her with hope and joy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Conclude by all extending hands towards the screen for a blessing of the graduate:

May God be a light unto your path this day and always.