



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

# End of School Year Milestone Moment Online

Ending the school year is exciting and something both children and youth celebrate. This End of School Year Milestone Moment Online provides desired outcomes, suggestions, and a discussion guide to use for an online celebration of the end of a school year. A school gifting stone is shown as a possible inexpensive send-ahead gift to remind the student of the online celebration. Even when separated from family, it does not mean we cannot still share the joy of what it means to a child or youth to be ending the school year and take time to recognize God’s presence in the moment.

## Desired Outcomes:

- Provide a discussion guide for faith-filled conversations to have online with a child or youth. Invite parents, grandparents, classmates, and other family members and friends.
- Celebrating this as a special time for a young person as they accomplish moving from one grade to the next and look forward to a break in their schooling is a moment to embrace.
- Experience prayers and blessings from family and friends that provide a memorable moment for the student.
- Send messages of love and support by creatively using online resources that surround the student with the love and grace of God.

## Suggestions:

- Be creative! Send cards ahead of time to the student 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 the end of the school year.
- Design a slide show of pictures from the past year of activities done during the school year.
- Invite others from the same class and their families to join you for a fun time of caring conversations and sharing mountain highs and valley lows of the school year.
- Build a gameshow with multiple choice questions about the student’s year for all to have fun guessing the correct answer. A good site for this is kahoot.com.
- Design a certificate to share online and then send or print for the student to keep as a memory.





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# End of School Year 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:

- Talk about your joys and challenges as you experience a school year ended by a pandemic.
- Tell stories of your past school year.
- What is something you look forward to doing over the school break/summer time?



## Devotions

Read the following:

*Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”*

Psalm 90:14 (NRSV)

- What word jumps out to you from this reading? Why?
- How does God’s steadfast love for you make a difference in your life as the school year ends?”



## Service

God’s love is shown through acts of kindness towards others. Make a list of things you can do during the school break to show God’s love to neighbors, friends, and family. Which will you do first?



## 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 student by completing one of these, “God I pray for...” or “God I am thankful for...” or “God, I hope...” After the last person shares, close with, “In Jesus’ name, amen”.

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

*May your days be filled with the love of God in Christ.*