



# Taking Faith Home

“Grow the Church by Growing  
People in Faith”

User Guide



MILESTONES  
MINISTRY

[www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)



*This resource for promoting Christian faith formation in the life of a congregation can be used for home devotions, Bible study groups, and other small group settings, including congregational boards and committees. It significantly deepens daily and lifelong faith formation.*

## Suggested use for the various parts of Taking Faith Home (TFH):

**Weekly Title:** This gives the theme for the week based on the Bible passages used for each particular Sunday in the church year. Reflect on this as you use other parts of TFH.

**Daily Bible Readings:** Find a preferred time of day to read and meditate on these Bible passages. Having a dependable routine increases the likelihood of using these daily readings. Reflect on what words or images come to mind as you read these passages.

The diagram illustrates the layout of the 'Taking Faith Home' resource page for November 29, 2015 (First Sunday of Advent). Blue arrows point from various sections of the page to labels on the left and right sides:

- Weekly Title:** Points to the title 'NOVEMBER 29, 2015 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT'.
- Daily Bible Readings:** Points to the 'DAILY BIBLE READINGS' section, which includes a table of readings for each day of the week.
- Scripture Verse:** Points to the 'SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK' section.
- Prayers and Blessing:** Points to the 'SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:' section, which includes a prayer for the week and a mealtime prayer.
- Conversations:** Points to the 'CARING CONVERSATIONS' section, which includes a discussion prompt and a reflection question.
- Devotions:** Points to the 'DEVOTIONS' section, which includes instructions for an Advent Wreath and a simple liturgy for lighting the first Advent candle.
- Service:** Points to the 'SERVICE' section, which includes instructions for making Christmas decorations.
- Rituals and Traditions:** Points to the 'RITUALS AND TRADITIONS' section, which includes instructions for a Christmas Tree Blessing and a 'countdown' ritual.

*You will be amazed at how people will move from knowing they should use TFH to being excited when they do.*

**Scripture Verse for this Week:** This text matches the weekly theme and provides a devotional anchor to your daily faith formation. Consider memorizing this verse each week.

**A Prayer for the Week:** Use this prayer with the Scripture for the week, the daily readings or any other part of TFH.

**Mealtime Prayer:** Offering a prayer at mealtime is a foundational faith practice that blesses our daily faith formation with a spirit of thanksgiving and praise.

**A Blessing to Give:** Receive this blessing as a gift of the faith community to you and extend these words to loved ones in your life. By doing so you experience how you are blessed to be a blessing to others. An option would be to mark the sign of the cross on the forehead as you offer the blessing.

### **The Four Keys:**

*Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions are the Four Key faith practices that are the foundation for any other faith practice the church uses to nurture the Christian faith.*

**Caring Conversations:** These conversation starters provide meaningful reflection on biblical texts and our daily lives. It helps you bond with others on the journey of faith. It also helps you in the important task of talking about your Christian faith.

**Devotions:** Being devoted to God's word serves as the foundation for practicing the presence of God and blessing you with faith, hope and love. Having a special time of day to do devotions increases the regularity of this important practice in your life.

**Service:** Christ tells us to serve others. By living the faith in love, we learn the value and joy of the Christian faith. Serving others reminds us of the breadth of the Kingdom of God and that our faith is personal but not private. Faith motivates us to serve the world in love.

**Rituals and Traditions:** Symbolic actions grounded in the Christian tradition throughout the year provide a beautiful and holistic way of experiencing the grace of God. As you practice rituals and traditions, continue to use the ones that fill you with peace, passion, meaning and hope.



**Do you want to dig deeper into Taking Faith Home as a vital tool for lifelong faith formation for all ages?**

- Explore our website under the Taking Faith Home tab and get more ideas.
- Enter into a short-term coaching relationship with Debbie Streicher or David Anderson to help your congregation implement a number of strategies.

**Please share your stories at: [info@milestonesministry.org](mailto:info@milestonesministry.org)**

# Taking Faith Home

Lectionary Year C  
2015-2016

Milestones Ministry, LLC is grateful to the following authors who have contributed to our 2015-2016 Taking Faith Home Year C :

David Anderson  
Gloria Anderson  
Greg Priebbenow

## Published by Milestones Ministry, LLC.

Revisions and updates edited by:

David Anderson  
Gloria Anderson  
Debbie Streicher  
Burton Streicher

Design and graphics by Jen Leonardson with Oxyjen Designs  
Page Layout and update by Burt Streicher



© Copyright 2015 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

Bulletin inserts may be reproduced for use in the local setting and sent in emails or in an e-news.  
Permission to place in a members only part of a website is granted.

*Reproduction for resale or use in paid presentations is strictly prohibited.*

Scripture quotations contained herein are from the Contemporary English Version Bible  
© Copyright 1995 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

Contact information: [info@milestonesministry.org](mailto:info@milestonesministry.org)  
David Anderson—[danderson@milestonesministry.org](mailto:danderson@milestonesministry.org)  
Debbie Streicher—[dstreicher@milestonesministry.org](mailto:dstreicher@milestonesministry.org)



Order Taking Faith Home and other Milestones Ministry resources at [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)