

Constructing Your Faith Timeline

Adapted from the Making Disciples Mentor's Guide

by William H. Willimon

- 1. On a large sheet of newsprint (36-48 inches in length), draw a horizontal line across the paper about 6-8 inches from the top. This is the date line.**
- 2. Another 4-5 inches down, draw another horizontal line across the paper. This is the place line.**
- 3. At the far left of the top (date) line, put the date of your birth. At the far left, put the current date. In between, with vertical strokes, divide the line into equal parts, such as every 3, 5 or 10 years, and write the year above every mark.**
- 4. The bottom line is the place line. Under it, write the names of the places where you lived at the points along your timeline.**
- 5. In the space above the top line and related to dates, write in words or phrases that represent significant national and world events that you remember or were a part of your life. (Depending on your age, the Vietnam War, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, September 11, 2001, various Olympic events, various Presidential terms, etc.)**
- 6. Between the two lines, write specific milestone events in your own life. Include events such as completion of education, jobs, marriage, college, births, deaths, moves, etc.**
- 7. Below the bottom line, add details that begin to come to mind, keeping them in proper reference to the date line. Include notes on these three categories:**
 - a. Personal experiences and remembrances, such as family trips, honors, or memorable disasters.**
 - b. Names of people who were important to you, with whom you spent time, who influenced you in positive ways, whom you remember now with fondness.**
 - c. Faith events. How was your faith being shaped? This can include such references as attending church camp, the death of someone you loved, high points and low points alike that had faith-shaping power.**

8. Share the timeline of your faith journey with your partner and with others as you wish. Talk it through and learn from it.