

A WORD ABOUT “GROWING IN FAITH” SHEETS



Our *Growing in Faith* sheets have been written in order to encourage your child to make a response to the Word of God. When a child acts on the truth he has learned, faith is born in the heart. Each sheet has a checklist of exercises to help children grow in spiritual understanding and in faith. Although a child can “go through the motions” of “completing these tasks” and have little growth in faith, it is also possible that these exercises can encourage a child toward a heart response of faith.

Please encourage your child to complete as much of the sheet as possible during the week and to bring the sheets back to the next class session. Children should check the boxes of the activities completed. This will give your child a sense of accountability as well as communicating the importance of the truth of the lesson to your child. In class, the completed sheet can be used as a springboard for discussion.

The *Growing in Faith* sheets contain the following components:

Memorize: Children are encouraged to memorize a verse a week. Your child may be capable of more memorization and therefore more verses are provided. Teachers may check the verse the class is memorizing, or teachers may leave the choice to the parents. If children start memorizing verses while they are young, they will have hundreds of verses learned by the end of adolescence. Our hope is to cultivate a lifetime habit of Bible memorization.

Review: The goal of memorization is not to learn a verse and then forget it, but to retain the verse for a lifetime. Therefore, review is critical. Please look for opportunities for your child to review and use her memory verses at home.

Pray: One goal of the *Growing in Faith* sheets is to encourage children in their prayer lives. Each week we provide a prayer suggestion.

Tell: Accountability and conversation about spiritual matters benefits all believers. Another goal of the *Growing in Faith* sheets is to start this at a young age so children do not feel embarrassed to talk about deep faith issues when they are older.

Children may choose either the Write or the Share option.

Write: In an effort to encourage spiritual journalizing, the “Write” selection has been included on the *Growing in Faith* sheets. This can most easily be done if the child has a separate spiral notebook to be used expressly for this purpose.

Share: The “Share” option is provided to help children share their faith (or in the case of unbelieving children, to share their knowledge with the hope that faith will grow from hearing the Word of God). By sharing with an unbeliever, children will be obeying the Great Commission. Children have less fear than many adults in sharing with unbelievers and by nurturing that God-given gift, our hope is they will grow up to be adults who witness to unbelievers.

By sharing with believers, children will be obeying the command to:

“let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16).

Perhaps then they will grow up to be adults who can say:

“I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly” (Psalm 40:10).

We look forward to partnering with you this year, to the end that *“the next generation may put their trust in God.”* If you have any questions or suggestions, or if we may be of help to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call. Any of us would be glad to talk with you.

Teacher _____

Helper(s) _____
