



My GROW Adventure

WITH GOD



A Guide for Parents & Mentors

To help children become
disciples who make disciples.

Living with and for God is an adventure! With the help of the "My GROW Adventure with God" booklet, children can respond to the ways they live with God and for God in several key areas: God's Word, relationships, outreach, and worship. They can write down the specific ways they want to participate in an adventure with God and journey toward becoming disciples who make disciples.

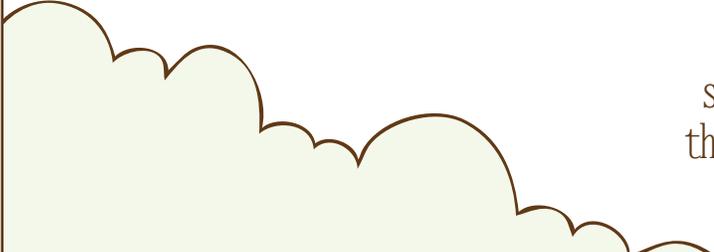
In Deuteronomy 6:4-9 God calls both parents and the church to nurture children in faith. It is a responsibility and a privilege to walk beside children and encourage them in the commitments they have made to grow in relationship with God, live out their faith, and share their

story with others. Here are some practical ways for you to come alongside children on their GROW adventure with God.

God's Word

Interacting with the Word of God creates an important foundation on which our life of faith is built.

- First and foremost, the Bible is a place to spend time with God and reflect on how God is directing us to respond.
- International Children's Bible or NIV are good choices for early readers.
- Pray before you begin to read.
- Read together with children or have them read to you.
- Provide space for children to share their struggles or questions.
- Be attentive to children's attention span, which may be brief.
- Ask the children to retell the story to you.
- Ask wondering questions: "I wonder how Jesus felt when the disciples tried to keep the children away?" Their responses will give you insight into a child's perception of Jesus.
- Have children imagine being in the story. Ask them, "What would you smell, hear, feel, taste?"
- Relate the story to real life, everyday experiences.
- Act out, make up a song about, or draw a picture about the story.
- Let them respond to God's Word before driving home a specific point.



"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." - Proverbs 22:6





Relationships

Each of us needs the encouragement and support of others in order to grow spiritually. These relationships can occur both within and outside of the biological family.

- Be a model. Children emulate what they see and hear. Children will know who you are by what you say and do and by the way you say and do it.
- Take time to be with children. Remember, formation takes place 24/7. How much influence do you have?
- Affirm children. Children are a gift from God. Affirm them for who they are as well as for what they do. Healthy families have five times more positive than negative communication.
- Talk to children. Begin faith life conversations early in life. Talk about God as though God were present everywhere because, in fact, God is. Be open to talking about the things children want to talk about, even if they seem mundane.

- Enter into a child's world. Listen for places where you can acknowledge God as creator, savior, sustainer, and guide as you play, create, and explore together.
- Introduce children to God's kingdom. Provide them with multicultural experiences. Visit churches whose racial or ethnic makeup is different from yours.

- Visit a retirement community.
- Assemble school supply packs for needy children.
- Collect clothing for the poor.
- Give money to help with ministry.
- Write to missionaries.
- Go on a mission trip together.

Outreach

Because we love Christ we follow Christ by the things we do. As we serve side by side, our children not only hear about the importance of loving others but they experience it with us. The experiences we share will shape the identity of our children and family.

- Share your faith story with your children.
- Help them share their faith story with others.
- Purchase and take food to a food pantry or distribution center.
- Pray daily for your neighbors.
- Help the elderly with spring cleaning.

Worship

Worship is more than a service on Sunday morning. It's putting God first in all that we do. We worship God as we:

- Model faith day by day.
- Pray together.
- Have regular conversation with children about faith issues.
- Read the Bible together.
- Serve others together.
- Share our faith story.
- Worship with others in the church.

Check out more family resources here:

CovChurch.org/children/resources/grow-kids/



A Make and Deepen Disciples Resource
Website: CovChurch.org
For information: mdd@covchurch.org
To download more copies: CovChurch.org/resources
To order more copies: CovBooks.com



The Evangelical Covenant Church

MAKE & DEEPEN DISCIPLES