

GROW (God's Word, Relationships, Outward Action, and Worship) is a pathway that will enable you to grow closer to God, wrestle with issues of faith, reveal the unique gifts you were born to share, and strengthen and equip you for a life of significance. Life *with* God and *for* God is a challenging journey. Prayerfully consider some practices or actions that will help you grow closer to God.

**God loves you, and wants a relationship with you.**

**You are invited to life-long spiritual GROWth.**

A Make and Deepen Disciples Resource of The Evangelical Covenant Church

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You are invited to

grow

grow

I am the **VINE**; you are the **BRANCHES**.

If you remain in **ME** and I in you, you will bear much **FRUIT**;

Apart from me you can do **NOTHING**.

John 15:5 (TNIV)

# Reflect on ways to GROW with God...

What are some ways you want to GROW? You may use any of these examples or create your own.

## God's Word:

### Illuminated by the Spirit

- Participate in a group Bible study
- Pray the Scriptures (*Lectio Divina* and *Dwell in the Word*)
- Select and memorize a life verse(s) for the year
- Share questions, doubts, and struggles as you reflect on God's word
- Read and reflect on God's word
- Respond through nature, art, music, science, sports, and journaling

## Relationships:

### United by the Spirit

- Seek a mentor, be a mentor
- Meet others for faith/life conversations, prayer, and reflection
- Extend love and grace and forgiveness to everyone
- Foster relationships with people of all generations, and ethnicities
- Celebrate life in Christ with family and friends
- Engage in every relationship, being attentive to God's presence

## Outward Action:

### Directed by the Spirit

- Serve at food pantries, shelters, nursing homes, clothing banks
- Visit shut-ins
- Provide meals for the sick
- Help others with household chores, repairs, and car repairs
- Participate in a mission trip
- Advocate for marginalized people; seek to reverse injustice
- Share your faith story
- Share your monetary gifts with the church and those in need

## Worship:

### Ignited by the Spirit

- Participate regularly in worship
- Engage in ongoing prayerful conversation with God
- Daily accept the love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus
- Live a life overflowing with gratitude and devotion for Jesus
- Serve within the church
- Live each moment with God, so as to live each moment for God
- Offer my talents, skills, and gifts to God

# Respond to God's invitation to GROW...

What is God inviting you to be and do in each of the GROW areas below? Copy your responses to the bottom panel and keep this portion for yourself.

## God's Word: Illuminated by the Spirit

(enabling you to meet God, and to understand and live out the truths of the Bible)

**Relationships:** United by the Spirit (enabling you to grow in your relationships with friends, across generations, and among people of varying ethnicities and backgrounds)

## Outward Action: Directed by the Spirit

(enabling you to extend compassion and mercy to others, to share God's story, and to act to reverse injustice)

**Worship:** Ignited by the Spirit (enabling you to live an intimate, abundant, joy-filled life in Christ both as an individual and as the body of Christ)

**Challenges on the Journey:** What growth inhibitors are you facing right now? What is keeping you from living into your journey with God?

# Recommend ways the church can help you GROW...

What might the church community provide to help you live fully into your spiritual journey? Give this portion of the card to a leader.

**God's Word** (devotional, small groups, mentor, accountability partner, other)

**Relationships** (small groups, retreats, mentor, accountability partner, community events, affinity group, other)

**Outward Action** (community events, service opportunities in and outside the church, other)

**Worship** (devotional, retreats, corporate worship, worship team, prayer retreats, other)

# Review your journey to GROW...

Copy your answers from "Respond to God's Invitation to GROW" in the space below, and give this portion to a friend or family member.

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(enabling you to meet God, and to understand and live out the truths of the Bible)

**Relationships:** United by the Spirit (enabling you to grow in your relationships with friends, across generations, and among people of varying ethnicities and backgrounds)

## Outward Action: Directed by the Spirit

(enabling you to extend compassion and mercy to others, to share God's story, and to act to reverse injustice)

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