



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

My GROW Adventure with God" is designed to help children reflect on actions they will take to GROW deeper in their relationship with God. The "My GROW Adventure with God" booklet encourages children to write or draw ways they will choose to adventure with God, through God's Word, Relationships, Outward Action and Worship. The booklet provides examples for children and asks them to consider choosing a person who will help guide them on their adventure with God.

Once children have made a commitment to adventure with God the next step is to help them live into their adventure. The real value and sustainability of the "My GROW Adventure with God" resource lies in regular weekly reminders and exploration of each child's adventure. Each week children should be given an opportunity to reflect on their GROW Adventure with God. Use the following ideas and suggestions to guide this activity.

A Guide for
Teachers



1

A framework
for reflection
& exploration

This resource can be combined with any curriculum if you consider the following GROW questions:

God's Word—What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story, to share struggles, and to ask questions.)

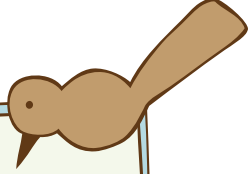
Relationships—Is there anything in the story that shows me how I should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes stories show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead.)

Outward Action—Is there anything in the story that shows me how I should help to serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways children could live this out in the week ahead.)

Worship—Is there anything in the story that shows me how I should accept God's love for me and others? How do I want to respond to God? (This response might be through the use of any of the ideas listed in the following section.)

2



Methods for
exploring the
material



Consider using some of the following methods for children to express their responses to the GROW Adventure with God questions. We recommend incorporating these methods to offer children a variety of ways to learn and respond to God's word. *(Consider providing a wide range of materials as noted below.)*

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|------------------|--------------------|
| • Art | • Sharing stories |
| • Prayer | • Music and poetry |
| • Drama | • Game show |
| • Movement/Dance | • Discussion |

Materials for exploring the GROW questions:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| • glue sticks | • staplers |
| • colored markers | • pipe cleaners |
| • play dough | • rubber bands |
| • scissors | • paper plates |
| • construction paper | • paints and brushes |
| • paper clips | • yarn |
| • craft sticks | • beads |
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3

Creating space
for reflection &
exploration

Create four spaces on the walls of your teaching space, one for each GROW area: *God's Word*, *Relationships*, *Outward Action*, and *Worship*. Each week, give children an opportunity to reflect on or add something to the wall about their experience with "My GROW Adventure with God." The wall will serve as an ongoing reminder of the adventure you are all taking together. Here are a few suggestions of what you might include on the "My GROW Adventure with God" wall:

- Art creations
- Written prayers
- Written poems or songs
- Photographs of drama or movement
- Art or written highlights of stories or discussions

4

Helping children
live into the
GROW experience

Use "My Grow Adventure with God":


- When children first arrive as a review of the week
- During small group time or interspersed throughout the session
- At the end of the class while waiting for parents to arrive
- As a review for the lesson
- As a way of engaging children who finish up a portion of your planned curriculum when other children are still working.

5

Resources & support
for parents or
adventure partners

There are two additional resources available to assist children even further in their GROW Adventure with God.

- *My GROW Adventure with God: A Guide for Parents and Mentors*. This simple resource offers some practical ways for parents and mentors to come alongside children on their GROW adventure with God.
- *My GROW Adventure with God letter templates*. These free online letter templates are available for download from the Covenant website at www.covchurch.org. They can be used to send out regular mail or email to parents and mentors as reminders of the continuing important role they play in a child's spiritual journey.



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What is GROW?

Christian Formation is a lifelong journey of growth into Christ's likeness. Whether you have been growing for a few days, a few years, or a lifetime, continued growth requires taking time to refocus, reflect and respond to our lifetime adventure with God. While we are on a personal journey to GROW in Christ, it doesn't happen in isolation—we need each other. Transformational GROWth is facilitated when we actively and intentionally embark on the journey together.

God's Word: Illuminated by the Spirit

Enabling us to meet God, understand and live out the truths of the Bible. *Scriptures: John 14:26; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 1:1-2, 2Timothy 3:16, Joshua 1:8; Hebrews 4:12*

Relationships: United by the Spirit

Enabling us to grow in our relationship with friends, across generations and among people of varying ethnicities and backgrounds. *Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 3:18; Psalms 119:63; Deuteronomy 6:4-8; Luke 10:25-37; 1 John 4:7-12; Proverbs 27:17*

Outward Action: Directed by the Spirit

Enabling us to extend compassion and mercy to others, to share God's story and act to reverse injustice. *Scriptures: John 16:13; Micah 6:8; Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 22:36-39; Matthew 28:19-20*

Worship: Ignited by the Spirit

Enabling us to live into an intimate, abundant joy-filled life in Christ both as individuals and as the body of Christ. *Scriptures: John 4:24; 1Chronicles 16:29; Psalms 100:1-2; Romans 12:1; John 15:4-5; Mark 1:35; Romans 8:26*



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