

## Growing in Grace

*Growing in Grace* is a weekly devotional and catechetical guide for use in the home. It is prepared by the pastor each week and distributed in the Sunday bulletin. It lives from the themes established on each Sunday of the church year and it looks forward to the coming Sunday.

It is given to help families and individual Christians in prayer, reading the Scriptures, and learning the catechism at home. Its purpose is to have all members of the congregation, young and old, using the Bible and catechism as daily devotional companions for the Christian faith and life.

Please keep in mind that a family or individual may or may not be able to use all that is printed. Use according to your family size, age or as you are able. You also may want to substitute the “Meditations” devotions (available in the entryway of church) or another devotional for the daily Bible readings.

## How to use *Growing in Grace*

*Growing in Grace* can be used by families at the dinner table for devotion. For individuals – whenever the time suits you.

### Invocation

Begin the devotion with the invocation that reminds you of your baptism.

### The Apostles’ Creed:

Confess together, young and old, the Apostles’ Creed.

### The Bible Verse of the Week and the Catechism

Recite out loud the Bible Verse of the Week and the portions of the Catechism every day.

**For Families:** Children learn by repetition. Whether the parents read aloud the catechism or take turns with the children, the goal is that the family together becomes familiar with these portions which speak about their faith and life.

## Daily Readings

Each day there is a Bible story that can be read by the individual Christian, or can be shared with the family (reading the verses or telling the story to younger ones). Going through these Bible lessons throughout the week and year will build up the individual and the family in God’s Word. (You can also substitute reading from the “Meditations” devotion booklet for this section, if you so wish). Included each day are suggestions for people and items for whom we can pray. Members of Risen Savior and then specific suggestions of other items for which we can pray are listed.

**For Families:** Have one of the parents or older children read the lesson. You may add your thoughts or have discussion afterwards. Have someone say a prayer. Pray for the family listed, and one or more of the suggestions for prayers. It may take some time, but praying from the heart will become more comfortable as you practice it.

On Saturday, look ahead to the next Sunday’s readings of which there is a summary at the bottom of the second page.

## Prayers

### Lord’s Prayer

Together pray the Lord’s Prayer

### Close with Luther’s Evening Prayer

Pray this prayer together.

**For Families:** If you have young children, don’t worry about them not following along at first. Continue you on. They will see you setting an example for them by making God’s Word a priority in your life. They also, by listening (remember the repetition!) and participating, will become firmly grounded in the Christian faith.

**May God bless your devotions!**

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