



Weaving faith into everyday life through the value of...**GROWTH**

Wonder: Get Curious About GROWTH

Look at photos of each person from around this time one year ago. How have you grown? What new skills have you learned? How have you changed? How do you hope to grow in the year ahead? What are you looking forward to learning?

Connecting Faith with GROWTH

Imagine yourself in the story of Jesus in the temple as you read it together from **Luke 2:41-52**. Notice the responses of Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the teachers. Use words or facial expressions to show how you imagine each person felt. Wonder what each person might say they learned that day.

Re-read or ask a child to read verse 52. What does it mean to grow "in wisdom and in stature"? What helps you grow in each of those ways?

Did you know that faith in God can also grow? Talking with God, reading the Bible, noticing God's gifts, and remembering how God was with you during a hard or scary time are some of the many ways that our faith grows. What has helped your love for God get bigger? Share those stories with each other.

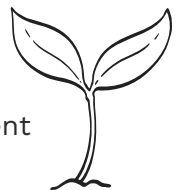
Faith practice: Print and hang up this question in a place where you will see it everyday: How did you see, share or feel God's love today? Make space in your day or week to share those stories with each other.

HOW DID YOU SEE GOD'S LOVE TODAY?



Growth Scavenger Hunt!

Explore nature & look for things at different stages of growth – sprouts, saplings, and full-grown trees, flowers in different stages of bloom. Notice how growth looks different for everything in nature – including people! We are all growing at our own pace.



Daily Blessings

Add one of these blessings to your morning routine as a reminder of God's love and presence. As you bless each other, place a hand on the head of the person being blessed or extend a hand over them. Hugs work too!

God loves you [name] and so do I.

Go with God and may God be with you during your day.



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Between---the---Seams

Make space for wonder. Stay open to questions, curiosity and the quiet work of the Spirit.

The Bible story that you are invited to read with your family this month is commonly known as the story of ‘Jesus in the Temple’ (Luke 2:41-52). As a parent who can probably relate to the feelings of Mary and Joseph, you might have preferred titles like ‘Jesus Scares His Mom and Dad’ or ‘Panic in Jerusalem.’

Can you imagine how Mary and Joseph felt as they searched for Jesus? Have you ever wondered what it was like for Mary and Joseph to rethink what they thought they understood after he explained why he’d stayed behind? They had some growing to do!

Growth isn’t just about learning - it’s also about unlearning. At the end of this story, we read that Mary “held these things dearly, deep within herself” (vs 51b, The Message). Imagine how Mary must have wondered about her son and his future. Growth involves understanding that you don’t have all the answers, nor do you need to.

Wonder can be a powerful tool for growth. It opens us up to creativity, new perspectives, and deeper faith. This month, try leaning into wonder as an antidote to worry by asking questions like these:

What if this challenge is an opportunity?

What can I learn from this moment?

Where is God leading me next?

As your family begins a new school year or enters into another time of transition, these questions can also provide a helpful way to frame your conversations, along with a reminder that God is with you every step of the way.

Meditation

One way faith grows is in the quiet, still moments we spend with God.

Use the QR code to access a guided meditation to calm your spirit and cultivate wonder. It takes about 4 minutes and can be used again and again.

