



Using Grow@Home

My name is Scott Jung and I am the Family Life & Discipleship Director at Zion Lutheran Church in Holland, Michigan and I want to walk you through the Grow@Home resource available at zionholland.org/grow. While the Grow@Home resource has been available on Zion's website for over a year now, during this time when we are asked to practice social distancing and people are spending extra time at home and not able to attend church, this resource becomes very practical.

As Christians, and especially during challenging times of confusion and stress, we want to make sure we remain in God's Word. We are washing our hands and doing our best to clean everything to protect us from the virus, but we must also be protecting ourselves from the devil, especially during these times of frustration, doubt, and anxiety. In the Preface of the Large Catechism, Martin Luther wrote, "Undoubtedly, you will not start a stronger incense or fumigation against the devil than to be engaged upon God's commandments and words, and speaking, singing, or thinking of them." The Grow@Home resource will help you do just that.

Begin at zionholland.org/grow. There you will find a **list of weeks**. Identify the week you are at. As I record this video, we are in **week 3** of March. Click the link to download the Grow@Home material for that week. You can either read the PDF file from your screen, or you may choose to print it.



1 The first section in the Grow@Home guide is the **invocation**. We begin by reminding ourselves of the name we have been baptized into, the name of our triune God. Make the sign of the cross to remind yourself that you are indeed redeemed by Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ.

Personal and Family Devotions •

1 Invocation

Make the sign of the cross and say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

2 The second section is a responsive **Psalm**. If you are using this resource with a group or your family, select one of you to be the leader who reads the non-bold parts, and then the rest can respond with the bold parts. Or you can just read through the Psalm yourself. The Psalms in the Bible touch on many different emotions and life experiences that God's people face on a daily basis.

2 Psalm

Create in me a clean heart, God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
 Do not drive me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy Spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain me with a willing spirit.
 Then will I teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will be converted to you.
 Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will express your praise.
 For you do not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you have no pleasure in burnt offerings.
 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.
You, God, will not despise a broken and a contrite heart.

Psalm 51:10-13, 15-17

3 The third section gives you 2-3 **hymns** each week to sing or reflect on.

3 Hymns

Jesus Loves Me (page 5)
O God, Our Help in Ages Past (page 6)

March, Week 3

4 These hymns were chosen to correspond with the **Lessons**, which is the fourth section of the Grow@Home guide. Here, you have the choice to read and reflect on one of three tracks: Bible Books, Bible Events, and Bible Teachings.

If you choose to focus on the **Bible Books**, you will see at least one Bible book featured each week. For instance, in March, Week 3, the book we focus on is Titus, one of the Personal Letters of Paul in the New Testament. We are given a summary statement stating what that book is generally about, a short outline for the book, and key verses you can highlight in your Bible or even memorize. There is also a list of daily readings for each day of the week that will add to your understanding of the Bible Book.

Small Groups • Church meetings

4 Lessons



BIBLE BOOKS

Personal Letters

Titus

Summary Statement

Paul writes about the importance of right teaching

Outline

I. Responsibilities for Church Leaders (1)

II. Responsibilities for Church Laity (2-3)

Key Verses

1:7; 2:1; 2:11-12; 3:4-5; 3:14

Daily Readings

Su	Tit 1:1-4	
Mo	Tit 1:5-9	
Tu	Tit 1:10-16	
We	Tit 2:1-8	
Th	Tit 2:9-15	
Fr	Tit 3:1-11	
Sa	Tit 3:12-15	

During the Lesson time, you can also look at **Bible Events**. In March, we focus on Jesus' encounters, conversations and experiences Jesus shared with specific individuals. The events marked with a star are probably more suitable for disciples of all ages, whereas the ones without the star may contain more mature content. There are four events suggested for each week. There are also review questions for each event to help you master the content. And for application, we recommend the I.T.C.H. method. The "I" is for **idea**: What ideas are stated in this verse, passage, or section? The "T" is for **thank**: What does this make me thankful for? The "C" is for **confess**: What do I need to confess? What am I sorry for? The "H" is for **help**: What help do I need from God to act on what I have read? Use these questions personally or as discussion questions with a group.

March, Week 3



BIBLE EVENTS
Jesus' Encounters

Matthew 17:1-13
The Transfiguration



a. At Jesus' transfiguration, what two men appeared talking with Jesus? (17:3)
b. What did the voice out of the cloud say at Jesus' transfiguration? (17:5)
c. How long did Jesus command His disciples to not report this vision to anyone? (17:9)
d. Who did the disciples understand the promised Elijah to be? (17:12-13)

Luke 10:38-42 ★
Mary and Martha



a. What was the relation of Martha to Mary? (10:38-39)
b. Where was Mary sitting while Martha was busy working? (10:39)
c. What was Martha overly busy with? (10:40)
d. How many things did Jesus say were necessary? (10:42)

Events labeled with a star (★) are appropriate for disciples of all ages. Other events may contain more mature content.

Mark 10:13-16 ★
Blessing the Little Children



a. Why were people bringing little children to Jesus? (10:13)
b. Who rebuked the people for bringing their little children to Jesus? (10:13)
c. What did Jesus say belonged to those like these children? (10:14)
d. How did Jesus say one must receive the Kingdom of God to enter it? (10:15)

Luke 18:18-30
The Very Rich Ruler



a. What question did the ruler ask Jesus? (18:18)
b. What was the one thing Jesus said that the ruler still lacked? (18:22)
c. What is easier than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God? (18:25)
d. Who did Jesus say makes it possible for people to be saved? (18:27)

For application: IDEA What is stated in the verse, passage or selection? **THANK** What does this verse, passage or selection make me thankful for? **CONFESS** What does this verse, passage or selection make me sorry for? **HELP** What help do I need from God to act on what I have read?

2

The third option during Lesson time is to learn **Bible Teachings**. Each week focuses on a part of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. In March, the focus is on the Lord's Prayer, and in this third week in March we are looking specifically at the Conclusion to the Lord's Prayer. There is the chief part, Martin Luther's meaning to that chief part, and then four explanation questions each week that further expand or breakdown what that part of the catechism is about. One goal would be to memorize the words in the yellow box. You can also use the I.T.C.H. questions to think through the application of these Bible teachings.

March, Week 3



BIBLE TEACHINGS
Lord's Prayer

Conclusion
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.* Amen.

What does this mean?
That I should be certain that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven, and that he hears them; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way, and has promised that He will hear us. So we say "Amen, Amen" that is, "Yes, yes, it shall be so."

*These words were not originally in Luther's Small Catechism.

Conclusion

141. Why do we pray these petitions to God?
A. God rules and controls all things
B. God can do all things
C. God is the only one worthy of our prayers
A - Matthew 6:33-33; B - Luke 1:37; Ephesians 3:20; C - 1 Chronicles 29:11

142. How can we be certain that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and heard?
A. God Himself has commanded us to pray in this way
B. God has promised that He will hear us
A - Matthew 6:9; B - Matthew 7:7-8; Romans 8:32

143. What does the word "Amen" mean?
Yes, yes, it shall be so.
James 1:6-7

144. What prevents God from hearing our prayers?
A. Un-confessed Sin
B. Selfishness
C. Doubt
D. Pride
A - Proverbs 28:9; 1 Peter 3:12; B - Proverbs 21:13; James 4:3; C - James 1:6-7; D - Luke 18:11-14

Younger disciples should focus on the content in the yellow box from Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

For application: IDEA What is stated in the verse, passage or selection? **THANK** What does this verse, passage or selection make me thankful for? **CONFESS** What does this verse, passage or selection make me sorry for? **HELP** What help do I need from God to act on what I have read?

3

5 The fifth section of the guide asks you to recite the Apostles' **Creed** together. This habit will cement these foundational beliefs about our triune God in our hearts, and remind us of the grace and mercy our God shows us daily.

6 The sixth section encourages us in **prayer**. We have heard and reflected on God's Word to us, and now it is time to continue the conversation by bringing our praises, thanksgivings, and requests before God. Pray for your family and friends, your nation, your world, and your own personal needs. Keep the C.H.A.T. acronym in mind as you pray: **Confess** your sins, **Honor** and praise God, **Ask** Him your requests, and **Thank** Him for His blessings. There are at least a couple suggested prayers each week that relate specifically to Bible Events or Teachings you reviewed, as well as the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer and Luther's Evening Prayer to add to your prayer time.

7 Finally, the seventh section is a simple **blessing** to send you or your group off with. The one in the guide is 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Jesus said in John 8:31, "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples." I pray that this Grow@Home resource will help you do just that.

5 Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

6 Prayers

Pray for your family and friends, your church, your community, your nation, your world, and your own personal needs. As you C.H.A.T. with God, remember to Confess your sins, Honor and praise God, Ask Him your requests, and Thank Him for His blessings.

1 O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your only begotten Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of the fathers, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud You wondrously foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King of His glory, and bring us to Your glorious home in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

2 O God, who resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble: Grant unto us true humility, after the likeness in which Your Only Son hath revealed it in Himself; that we may never be lifted up and provoke Your wrath, but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

3 Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants. And, that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as are pleasing to You. Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and all evil, that all my actions and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

OR

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

7 Blessing

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. (2 Corinthians 13:14) Amen.

The Bible translation is the Unlocked Literal Bible (ULB), November 20, 2017. Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0). The text can be found at <https://unlockedliteral.com/>.
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 The text for Martin Luther's Small Catechism is taken from <http://www.churchofilluminations.org.uk/site/26-small-catechism/>. Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.
 Prayers are used and modified from the following sources: www.kingjames.org/2009/10/collected-for-free.html,
www.pewpew.org/reading/prayer/35-weeks/CMS/1303/CMS1303.html#prayers.