

# Growing in God's Love

## A Story Bible Curriculum

### At-Home Kit Guide

Dear Family,

Here is your at-home kit! This kit is designed to engage your family in exploring this unit on **People Jesus Met**, with five stories that have questions and activities for you to do together. We will be using these materials and stories during our Wednesday Night Alive Zoom meetings, but you can also use them on your own time if Wednesday nights don't work for you!

There are three activities to do, called The Story, Around the Table, and Family Activity. You can do these activities at your pace, and you don't have to do everything all in the same day or in one sitting. Read the at-home kit instructions sheet to see what to do for the **People Jesus Met** unit.

- 🌱 **The Story**—This is the easy part! Read or listen to one of the stories from *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible* together as a family. You can find a video of Susannah reading these stories on the church's website. Just go to [www.fpcgastonia.org/children](http://www.fpcgastonia.org/children) and you'll find the videos in the "Growing in God's Love" Wednesday Night Alive section.
- 🌱 **Around the Table**—This section contains wondering questions that everyone can discuss about the story. Wondering questions have no right or wrong answers. They are meant to evoke imagination and further discussion as everyone thinks about the story and wrestles with their place in it. A great time to ask these questions is during a family meal or at another time when your family can gather together.
- 🌱 **Family Activity**—There are several suggestions for activities you can do together as a family. Choose one that works best for your family. Some activities require supplies found in this kit or things you may have at home. If you are missing something, feel free to substitute or adapt the activity. There are book and/or video suggestions that may be included in a session. You can borrow a book if it is in your local library, purchase a book, or watch a read-aloud version online. Internet links are provided in the at-home kit instructions.

I hope this helps your family explore the stories of the Bible and guides you through talking about faith in your home. If you have any questions, please contact me at [sbryant@fpcgastonia.org](mailto:sbryant@fpcgastonia.org) or by calling the church office (704.864.2651 ext. 106).

Blessings,

**Susannah Bryant**  
Director of Faith Formation  
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# At-Home Kit Instructions

## ○ In this kit, you will find:

- ✦ At-home kit letter to families
- ✦ Instructions on how the family can listen to the stories from *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible*: Go to [www.fpcgastonia.org/children](http://www.fpcgastonia.org/children) and you'll find the videos in the "Growing in God's Love" Wednesday Night Alive section of the page.
- ✦ Supplies provided in the at-home kit:
  - 6" circle of cardboard (The Short Man)
  - 3 rubber bands (The Short Man)
- ✦ Supplies not included in the at-home kit:
  - Paper towel tubes (The Short Man)
  - Markers, crayons, colored pencils (The Short Man, The Thankful Man, The Rich Man)
  - Glue (The Short Man)
  - Tub of warm water (The Thankful Woman)
  - Towels (The Thankful Woman)
  - Soap (The Thankful Woman)
  - Plain paper (The Rich Man)

## ○ The Story

Choose one or more stories to read from the *People Jesus Met* unit:

- ✦ The Thankful Man (Luke 17:1–19)
- ✦ The Very Thirsty Woman (John 4:1–32)
- ✦ The Rich Man (Luke 18:18–30)
- ✦ The Short Man (Luke 19:1–10)
- ✦ The Thankful Woman (Luke 7:36–48)

## ○ Around the Table

Engage in conversation using the following questions:

- ✦ The Thankful Man
  - **Have you ever been sick or hurt yourself while playing? Who helped you?**
  - **Why do you think the ten men thought Jesus could help them?**
  - **What do you think Jesus means when he tells the thankful man, "your faith is what healed you"?**
  - **What are some other stories you know about Jesus healing people?**
  - **Who are people who might be ignored in our community?**
- ✦ The Very Thirsty Woman
  - **What are some things you use water for? Why is water so important?**
  - **Have you ever had a disagreement with someone? How did you solve the problem?**
  - **Why do you think Jews and Samaritans did not like each other? What are some groups today that don't get along very well?**
  - **What does Jesus mean when he says he can give the woman "the water of life"?**
- ✦ The Rich Man
  - **When is a time you gave something to somebody else?**
  - **Why do you think the rich man asks Jesus about living forever with God?**
  - **Why do you think Jesus tells the rich man to sell everything he has?**
  - **What other stories do you remember about giving to people in need?**
  - **Why do you think the Bible talks so much about giving to the poor?**

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## 🌿 The Short Man

- **Why do you think the people in Jericho did not like tax collectors?**
- **Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly?**
- **What do you think Jesus thought about Zacchaeus being up in the tree?**
- **How do you think the people felt when Jesus asked to go to Zacchaeus' house?**
- **Where do you see yourself in this story? Are we sometimes like Zacchaeus? Are we ever like the crowd? What about Jesus?**

## 🌿 The Thankful Woman

- **How does your family prepare your home when guests come over?**
- **Why do you think the woman was crying when she came into the room? What do you cry about?**
- **Why were the people bothered by the woman washing Jesus' feet?**
- **What other stories do you remember about Jesus hanging out with sinners?**
- **Why do you think there are so many stories of Jesus talking with people others didn't like?**

## 🕒 Family Activity

Choose one or more activities to do together as a family.

### 🌿 The Thankful Man

#### o One Said "Thank-You!"

- Provide copies of Resource Page 1, pencils, colored pencils, and crayons. Invite the children to trace their hands in the space on the paper. Encourage children to assist one another with tracing. Have the children decorate their hands as they choose. Engage the children in conversation while they are decorating their hands using the following questions:
- **Why do you think only one person returned to thank Jesus?**
- **What do you think the other nine people did? Do you think they were grateful? Why or why not?**
- **What difference do you think it makes that the story tells us that the one who gave thanks was a Samaritan, someone who was considered different or not a friend?**
- Provide permanent markers and invite the children to draw happy faces on all the fingertips. Give the children each a heart sticker and invite them to place it on one of the fingers or thumbs to represent the one who returned to give thanks.

#### o An Attitude of Gratitude

- Watch the YouTube video "What Is Gratitude?" ([bit.ly/WhatIsGratitude](https://bit.ly/WhatIsGratitude), 2:13). Wonder together:
- **Why is it important to have a good attitude?**
- **What are some ways you show gratitude?**
- Provide large paper and drawing supplies. Spread the large paper out on a table or wall. Write the letters of the alphabet in big letters, leaving space around each letter, filling the paper. Invite the children to create an alphabet of gratitude together. Encourage them to write or draw pictures by each letter. Children may write or draw by more than one letter, and letters may have more than one thing by them. Encourage them to be creative, especially with the

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more difficult letters, thinking about the video and how gratitude can be found in many circumstances.

## The Very Thirsty Woman

### o Living Waters Song

- Invite the children to create a motion for the words “living water.” As they watch the YouTube video and listen to the song “Living Waters [Lyric Video]—Keith & Kristyn Getty” ([bit.ly/LivingWatersVideo](http://bit.ly/LivingWatersVideo), 3:53), have them do their living water motion whenever they hear those words in the song. After hearing the song, engage in conversation about the song using the following questions:
- What words stood out to you while listening to the song? Why?
- What did you hear in the song that reminded you of the story of the very thirsty woman?
- How can we get the living water that Jesus is talking about?
- Play the song again and invite the children to sing the refrain, beginning with “There’s a river that flows . . .” along with the video.

### o Clean Water

- Show the YouTube video “Water Changes Everything” ([bit.ly/WaterChangesEverything](http://bit.ly/WaterChangesEverything), 3:19) to learn about the global water crisis. Wonder together what it would be like to live without clean water and to have to walk for hours a day to get access to water.

### o Filling Buckets

- Find your copy of Resource Page 1. Invite the children to fill their buckets with words and pictures.
- What are the things you would like to fill your bucket with?
- How might you fill someone else’s bucket?

## The Rich Man

### o MVP

- Wonder together what might be some of the things the rich man loved that he didn’t want to give away. Ask the children why they think it is harder for rich people to let go of their things.
- Invite the children to use the art supplies and illustrate their most valuable possession, something that is very important to them. After they have finished, encourage the children to share their pictures with the group. Wonder together:
- Why is the item so important to you?
- How would you feel if God asked you to give it away?
- What did Jesus say would happen when we give something up for God? What do you think that means?

### o Watching a Video and Sing Along

- Watch the YouTube video “Simple Living (A Rich Young Man) (with lyrics)—Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stewart Townend” ([bit.ly/SimpleLivingSong](http://bit.ly/SimpleLivingSong), 3:13). Listen carefully to the lyrics. Sing along. Ask:
- What other Bible stories do you hear in this song?
- The song encourages “simple living.” How might having fewer material things be more enjoyable?

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## 🌱 The Short Man

### o Standing from Tallest to Shortest

- As a family or small group, invite people to form a single file line with the tallest person in the front and the shortest person in the back.
- Ask the person in the front to choose a number from one to five and place that many fingers out in front of their chest. Can the person in the back see how many fingers they are holding up?
- Then ask the person in the back to jump up and down or wave their arms. Can the person in the front see them?
- Suggest that Zacchaeus could not see Jesus because he was shorter than most of the people in the crowd. On the other hand, the people in the crowd probably did not notice Zacchaeus struggling to see.
- Wonder together:
- Who are some people who might have trouble seeing Jesus?
- What are different ways we block people's view of Jesus?

### o Share, Save, Spend Project

- Comment that Zacchaeus learned to be more generous with his money, not keeping all (or more) for himself. Tell the children that one way to practice generosity is by having a "Share, Save, Spend" system. Wonder together where money the children receive or earn could go in each category. Invite the children to make a "Share, Save, Spend" bank.
- Provide each child with three empty paper towel tubes and three rubber bands. Tell the children to work with a partner to join the three tubes together with rubber bands. Have one child hold the three tubes upright on a table in a triangle formation. Have the other child place a rubber band around the middle of the tubes, then a second rubber band around the bottom third of the tubes, and finally a third rubber band around the top third of the tubes.
- Invite the children to write one of the words "Share," "Save," or "Spend" on each tube. Encourage the children to decorate the tubes as they like. Give each child a 6" circle of cardboard. Have the children run a ring of tacky glue around the bottom end of each tube and place their tubes on the cardboard circle to form a base. Set aside to dry.

## 🌱 The Thankful Woman

### o Putting Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes

- As a family or small group, invite people to sit in a circle on the floor with everyone's feet together in the center. If people are wearing shoes, invite them to remove their shoes. Have the group note the similarities and differences between each person's feet. Invite each person to talk about a typical day "in their shoes." Discuss how people's experiences are the same and different.
- What did you learn about the people in the circle?
- What did you learn about yourself?

### o Feet

- Remind the children that the woman showed Jesus a great kindness in doing a humble act of washing his feet, but Jesus showed the woman great kindness as well by seeing her gratitude and welcoming her when

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others saw only her sin. Hand out copies of Resource Page 1 and invite the children to complete the prompt with words or pictures. Wonder together:

- On a typical day, where do your feet take you?
- How will you follow in Jesus' footsteps and show kindness to people, seeing the good in them?
- What steps can you take to make your community a better place?

### o Foot Washing

- Remind the children that washing someone's feet when they arrived at their home was a practice of hospitality and welcome. Wonder together why that was and what we do today to show someone that they are welcome in our home.
- Tell the children that you are going to wash their feet as a sign of hospitality and caring. Have the children form a circle with chairs and position yourself in the center of the circle. Invite children to remove their shoes and socks. One by one, invite each child to dip their feet in the water, and then dry off their feet with the towel. You may say a short blessing for each child as you wash their feet, such as, "May you feel at home and cared for today. Peace be with you."
- When the foot (or hand) washing is finished, ask the children how it felt to be cared for in such a way. If older children assisted in washing, ask them how it felt to wash someone else's feet.