To the educator, pastor, or volunteer leader,

Faith formation happens in many places and in a variety of ways. In order to expand how you can use *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible Curriculum*, we offer this guide to create at-home kits for families. These kits can be used to support families teaching the stories at home, whether you are meeting in person or not, or handed out as supplemental materials for online gatherings. Included are a cover letter that you can edit and an instruction sheet to deliver with the kits you create for families, helping them with faith formation at home.

*Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible Curriculum* is a multiage (ages 5–10) curriculum. It is a companion to *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible*. It is important that families have this story Bible or that you provide access to it through read-aloud online stories or live internet story time. In your at-home kit guide, let them know how they can access the stories—by reading them in the story Bible or by listening to them in the manner you have arranged.

At-home kits can be used to connect with stories in the units as families select their own questions and activities. Families who prefer to talk can focus on the wondering questions­—questions that all ages can ponder and discuss. Families who like activities can do crafts, play games, read books, watch videos, and so forth. And families who like a little of both can choose to do that as well!

You may create your at-home kits anyway you like. We provide instructions that offer suggestions for each unit. You may choose which stories to use in each unit and customize the questions and activities for each session. For example, you may wish to suggest different activities than those listed. You may choose to expand your at-home kit instructions or keep them simple. Placeholders with **[red bold brackets]** are providedfor you to fill in your information. The kits will vary for each unit. You may need a large envelope for one unit and a small box for another unit. Of course, do what works best for you and the families in your congregation.

Every at-home kit guide includes:

* Letter to Families: a cover letter template you customize­ to send to your families along with the at-home kits you create
* Instructions: a template for you to customize the at-home kits and provide your recommendations for questions and activities taken from the sessions

Dear Family,

Here is your at-home kit! This kit is designed to engage your family in exploring this unit on ***Jesus Teaches***, with **[Choose the number of stories you will use from this unit. Delete this bracket when you have added the number of stories.]** stories that have questions and activities for you to do together.

There are threeactivities 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 ***Jesus Teaches*** 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. **[Say how your families will read or hear the story.]**
* **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.

We hope this helps your family learn about the stories of the Bible and guides you through talking about faith in your home. If you have any questions, please contact **[Insert your contact information here]**.

Blessings,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your Church’s Name]**

In this kit, you will find:

* At-home kit letter to families
* *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* or instructions on how the family can listen to the stories **[Insert instructions here.]**
* Supplies provided in the at-home kit: **[List supplies you will provide. We suggest the following items for this unit. Delete this bracket when you have added the supplies you will include.]**
	+ Local or world map (A Blessings Map)
	+ Stickers or Sticky notes (A Blessings Map)
	+ One sheet of adhesive mailing labels (Salt and Light for Our World)
	+ A copy of the Lord’s Prayer (The Lord’s Prayer)
* Supplies not included in the at-home kit: **[List other supplies. We suggest the following for this unit. Delete this bracket when you have added the supplies you will not include.]**
	+ Favorite family recipe that includes salt (Salt and Light for Our World)
	+ Ingredients for favorite family recipe (Salt and Light for Our World)
	+ Markers (Salt and Light for Our World)
	+ Journal (optional) (The Lord’s Prayer)
	+ Writing instrument (optional) (Salt and Light for Our World; The Lord’s Prayer)
	+ Nesting material, such as twigs, leaves, and dry grasses (Don’t Worry)
	+ Peanut butter (Don’t Worry)
	+ Pine cones (Don’t Worry)
	+ Birdseed (Don’t Worry)

A Blessing Map (Matthew 5:1-12)

* Read the story “A Blessing Map” from *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* (p. 324).
* Around the Table

Engage in conversation using the following questions:

* + **[Choose several wondering questions from the Engage and Wrestle sections. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.] [Insert questions here. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.]**
	+ **[Insert questions here. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.]**
* Family Activity **[We have suggested the following activities, but you may choose several activities from the Intergenerational and Home Ideas and/or the Engage, Wrestle, and/or Grow with More sections. Copy and paste the activity’s instructions from the digital version or photocopy the printed page, highlight the activity, and include it in the kit. Delete this bracket when you have added the activities.]**

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

* + Sharing Stories, “Connections” section, page 4
	+ Blessings Map, “Service” section, page 4

Salt and Light for Our World (Matthew 5:13-16)

* Read the story “Salt and Light for Our World” from *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* (p. 336).
* Around the Table

Engage in conversation using the following questions:

* + **[Choose several wondering questions from the Engage and Wrestle sections . Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.] [Insert questions here. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.]**
	+ **[Insert questions here. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.]**
* Family Activity **[We have suggested the following activities, but you may choose several activities from the Intergenerational and Home Ideas and/or the Engage, Wrestle, and/or Grow with More sections. Copy and paste the activity’s instructions from the digital version or photocopy the printed page, highlight the activity, and include it in the kit. Delete this bracket when you have added the activities.]**
* Choose one or both activities to do together as a family.
	+ Saltless Cooking, “Connections” section, page 4
	+ Light Savers, “Service” section, page 5

The Lord’s Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)

* Read the story “The Lord’s Prayer”from *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* (p. 338).
* Around the

Engage in conversation using the following questions:

* + Table **[Choose several wondering questions from the Engage and Wrestle sections. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.]**
	+ **[Insert questions here. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.]**
	+ **[Insert questions here. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.]**
* Family Activity **[We have suggested the following activities, but you may choose several activities from the Intergenerational and Home Ideas and/or the Engage, Wrestle, and/or Grow with More sections. Copy and paste the activity’s instructions from the digital version or photocopy the printed page, highlight the activity, and include it in the kit. Delete this bracket when you have added the activities.]**

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

* + Praying across Languages, “Education” section, page 5
	+ Prayer Pals, “Connections” section, page 5
	+ ACTS and the Lord’s Prayer, “Grow with More” section, page 28

Don’t Worry (Matthew 6:25-34)

* Read the story “Don’t Worry” from *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* (p. 342).
* Around the Table

Engage in conversation using the following questions:

* + **[Choose several wondering questions from the Engage and Wrestle sections. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.] [Insert questions here. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.]**
	+ **[Insert questions here. Delete this bracket when you have added the questions.]**
* Family Activity **[We have suggested the following activities, but you may choose several activities from the Intergenerational and Home Ideas and/or the Engage, Wrestle, and/or Grow with More sections. Copy and paste the activity’s instructions from the digital version or photocopy the printed page, highlight the activity, and include it in the kit. Delete this bracket when you have added the activities.]**

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

* + The Examen, “Education” section, page 6
	+ Caring for the Birds, “Connections” section, page 6
	+ Closet Cleanout, “Service” section, page 6