

A NOTE TO PARENTS



This year your child will be studying a curriculum called *MY PURPOSE WILL STAND; A Study for Children on the Providence of God*. Although the providence of God is a difficult theological concept to grasp, it is such an important part of the nature of God that it needs to be taught to children. In order to make the providence of God more understandable to children, *MY PURPOSE WILL STAND* has used the following image to explain the providence of God:

God's EYE is watching over the universe
God's HAND is working in the universe

In other words, the providence of God is God's act of providing for the universe, or in childlike terms, it is "God taking care of the universe."

This image will be further expanded to include:

God's VOICE created and continually upholds the universe.

God created the universe and He is still at work in the universe sustaining it. Without the continual work of God upholding the universe by the "word of His power," the universe and everything in it would cease to exist. *For in him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28a)*.

One of the goals of this study is to show children that God is actively at work in the world—in the past, in the present, and in the future. Everything in the world has its existence in God and is under His active control. Therefore everything that happens to us is already known by God, ordered by God, and provided for by God. Nothing can happen to us that God has not planned. All of God's purposes are good; therefore, everything that comes into our lives is for our ultimate good.

It is our prayer that by the end of this study, your child will be able to look at confusing circumstances, disappointments, and suffering as coming from a good God and that your child's response to these situations will be a heart of trust in the almighty, sovereign, all-knowing Ruler of this world. Rather than question the wisdom of God in confusing circumstances, despair in disappointment, or complain in suffering, a heart that trusts in God rests in His wisdom and sovereign works. By the grace of God, may your child's response in such circumstances not be, "Why me?!" rather may he respond with a heart of anticipation that says with awe, "I wonder what God is up to?!"

ABOUT "GROWING IN FAITH" SHEETS



Growing in Faith sheets have been written in order to encourage your child to make a response to the Word of God. When a child acts on the truth he has learned, faith is born in the heart. Each sheet has a checklist of exercises to help children grow in spiritual understanding and in faith. Although a child can "go through the motions" of completing these tasks and have little growth in faith, it is also possible that these exercises can encourage a child toward a heart response of faith.

Please encourage your child to complete as much of the sheet as possible during the week and to bring the sheets back to the next class session. Children should check the boxes of the activities completed. This will give your child a sense of accountability as well as communicating the importance of the truth of the lesson to your child. In class, the completed sheet can be used as a springboard for discussion.

The sheets will then be returned home so they can be referred back to from time to time should you desire to do so.

The *Growing in Faith* sheets contain the following components:

Scripture and Key Themes: It is very difficult to pass on Biblical truth with heart and passion if it is not first in our own hearts. Therefore, scripture and key themes are provided so that you can dwell on the lesson and ask God to make the truth live in you.

Memorize: Memorizing scripture is of vital importance in spiritual growth. When the Word is memorized, it is with us as an ever-present counselor and an effective weapon against the attacks of the enemy.

Children are encouraged to memorize a verse a week. Your child may be capable of more memorization and therefore more verses are provided. It could be a great encouragement to your child if you memorize the scripture with your child each week.

Teachers may check the verse the class is memorizing, or teachers may leave the choice to the parents. If children start memorizing verses while they are young, they will have hundreds of verses learned by the end of adolescence. Our hope is to cultivate a lifetime habit of Bible memorization.

Look and See: The Look and See portion encourages the child to discover spiritual truth.

Talk: Accountability and conversation about spiritual matters benefits all believers. Another goal of the *Growing in Faith* sheets is to start this at a young age so children do not feel embarrassed to talk about deep faith issues when they are older. It is our prayer that this exercise will help you develop a lifetime habit of talking about spiritual matters with your child.

Pray: One goal of the *Growing in Faith* sheets is to encourage children in their prayer lives. Each week we provide a prayer suggestion.

Journal: In an effort to encourage spiritual journalizing, the “Journal” selection has been included on the *Growing in Faith* sheets. By writing down his thoughts, a child will be encouraged to think more deeply and to interact with truth rather than just read it.

This can most easily be done if the child has a separate spiral notebook to be used expressly for this purpose.

We look forward to partnering with you this year, to the end that *“the next generation may put their trust in God.”* If you have any questions or suggestions, or if we may be of help to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call. Any of us would be glad to talk with you.

Teacher _____

Helper(s) _____
