

Growing in
G.R.A.C.E.



Adult Discipleship Pathway
Grace Lutheran Church

Ready to grow in your walk with Jesus? Great! We're ready to walk with you in your journey of faith. Growing should be the goal of every follower of Jesus. Ephesians 4:12b-13 expresses it like this:

...so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

See it? Until we all become mature. That's our goal.

At Grace, we've designed a pathway, geared toward your spiritual maturity. Each letter of our name describes a characteristic of a disciple. And with each characteristic we have outlined three skills we believe will help you mature in your walk with Jesus.

We call this "Growing in **G.R.A.C.E.**" And we invite you to join us on this discipleship pathway.

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In obedience to the Great Commission and in the power of the Holy Spirit within us, we seek to make disciples who:

Grow in God's Word.

G

These disciples will spend time daily in God's Word. They will seek ways to apply the truths they read to their daily lives and will commit key passages to memory. (*Psalm 1:1-3; 119:11, 105; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; James 1:22; 1 Peter 2:2*)

Skill G1: Become proficient in a "response-focused" Bible study methodology.

The key in any effective Bible study is to find a way to apply what you read to the way you live. We recommend a simple four step method called "Stop, Look, Listen and Respond." *Resource: Bible Study basics course.*

Skill G2: Develop a system for Scripture memorization. Doing so allows you to be formed by God's Word from the inside out. It enables you to meditate on key passages and guards your heart from the attacks of the devil. *Resource: Scripture memory course.*

Skill G3: Learn how to study the Bible using the Inductive method. With this method you will "observe" what the text says, "interpret" what the text means and "apply" the truths to your daily life. *Resources: Inductive study course or one of the inductive Bible study classes.*

R

Re-tell their faith story

These disciples will have a personal relationship with Christ. They will intentionally share their faith with those who do not have a similar relationship. (Matthew 18:18-20; Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Peter 3:15-16)

Skill R1: Be assured of your own personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You know what it means to be saved and are confident in your relationship with Him, based on His grace alone. *Resource: Lessons on Assurance.*

Skill R2: You are able to tell your faith story to those you meet. In three short minutes, you can describe the moment you became serious about your faith and how your life after that moment differs from your life before. *Resource: Creating My Faith Story course.*

Skill R3: You are intentionally building relationships with non-Christians. You do this so you can share your faith story with them with the goal of bringing them into God's kingdom. *Resource: Building Intentional Relationships course*

A

Apply God's gifts.

These disciples will know they have been created for a divine purpose. They will discover their spiritual gifts and will use those gifts in ministry. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-28; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Peter 4:10)

Skill A1: Learn and understand the various spiritual gifts God bestows on individual Christians. We teach that there are 27 different gifts, and that each Christian has at least (and typically more than) one. *Resource: Spiritual Gifts, part 1 course.*

Skill A2: Be able to identify your specific spiritual gift(s). In addition to know what all the spiritual gifts are, you should know which one(s) God has given to you. Why? Because that is the purpose for which He created you! *Resources: Spiritual Gifts, part 2 course and the Spiritual Gifts test.*

Skill A3: Be actively engaged in a ministry that enables you to use your spiritual gift(s). Once you know what your gifts are, you need to begin to use them. That's how you contribute to a healthy church and a growing Kingdom. *Resources: Applying My Spiritual Gift course and the Time and Talent booklet.*

C

Cultivate accountable relationships.

These disciples will create friendships with other Christians through which they will learn how to walk in their faith and also how to help others also walk in their faith. (Proverbs 27:17; Romans 12:4-5; Galatians 6:2; Titus 2:3-4)

Skill C1: Build relationships with other people of Grace. You will look for ways to cultivate friendships with others in our church for the purpose of mutual spiritual growth. *Resources: Sunday School classes, ministry opportunities, and social events.*

Skill C2: Participate in a triad. "Triad" is the term we use to describe small clusters of people (usually 3-4) who commit themselves to a weekly time of Bible study and mutual accountability. *Resources: See Pastor Brodbeck to get involved in a triad.*

Skill C3: Become trained to lead a triad. The goal is that an ever-increasing number of people are equipped to facilitate these triads so that more and more people at Grace and in the community can grow in their faith. *Resource: The Ways of the Alongsider course.*

E

Exalt God through worship.

These disciples will join with the community of faith in public and private times of worship. They will develop meaningful prayer lives and will also experience God through the practice of spiritual disciplines. Psalm 95:1-7; 96:1-4a; John 4:23-24; Hebrews 13:15)

Skill E1: Attend the worship services of the church on a regular basis. The Scriptures clearly communicate the important of corporate worship to our spiritual growth. In worship we hear God's Word proclaimed, we share in the Sacraments and we experience the joy of Christian community. *Resources: Sunday morning and midweek worship opportunities.*

Skill E2: Develop a consistent and meaningful prayer life. In prayer we enjoy an intimacy with God that can be achieved in no other way. We are able to share our needs and listen for His direction. *Resources: Transforming Prayer course and quarterly prayer events.*

Skill E3: Practice the spiritual disciplines. These are personal and corporate habits that deepen your walk with Jesus and include such thing as fasting, silence, journaling and meditation. *Resources: Spiritual disciplines courses and corporate events.*