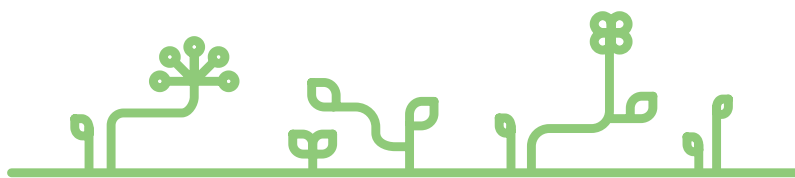




FAMILY EMPOWERED EVENT



COORDINATOR'S GUIDE



FAMILY EMPOWERED EVENT: GROW

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inspire. equip. support.®

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## WHAT IS IN THIS RESOURCE

This resource includes step-by-step outlines for you to host two events: a *Grow* Parent Event and a *Grow* Family Event. In each of the two sections of the guide, you will find the values and vision for the event, what you need to prepare, and a sample timeline you can use as a guideline. In the included Resource Folder, you will find promotional materials, pamphlets, slides, videos, and more to bring each event to life.



# INSPIRE, EQUIP, SUPPORT

## INSPIRE

On the back of the pantry door in my mom's kitchen is a series of lines, names, and dates. What may look like a mess at first glance is actually a record of months and years in the lives of our family members, each line marking our height as we grew older and taller. It has been a tradition for as long as I can remember to "measure" each other on this door at various family gatherings—so long, in fact that I can now see where my own children are in comparison to where I was at the same age.

The marks on the pantry door are a physical reminder to me, not just of what has passed, but of what is yet to come. Each mark is a reminder that my children are constantly growing and changing. But growth is not limited to the physical. Over the next few years, my children will mature and make decisions about spirituality that will impact eternity. In the same way that I have a responsibility to nurture and provide for my children's physical needs, I am responsible for cultivating an environment that allows them to build a healthy spirituality—one where they are deeply connected with Christ.

*Grow* is an opportunity for the families in your ministry to learn how to create an environment in their homes that will help cultivate healthy spiritual growth. *Grow* is an experience that will equip parents to help guide their children toward a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

*Alyson Crocket*  
Tru Team

## EQUIP

Spiritual growth is a foundational principle to the Christian life. In the same way that our physical bodies must grow to maturity, we are exhorted in Scripture to grow our souls, rooted deeply in the life-saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. In Luke 8, Jesus speaks to His followers in a parable that emphasizes the importance of healthy spiritual growth:

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." (Luke 8:5-8)

When the disciples questioned Jesus regarding the story, His response to them was as follows:

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of





testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." (Luke 8:11-15)

God has chosen family as the primary place to grow faith (see Psalm 78:2-8). It is the role of parents to prepare "good soil" for their children. This happens when we create environments in our homes that God can use to grow deep roots of vibrant faith in Christ. As we create these spiritual spaces in our everyday lives, our children can grow to maturity and ultimately bear fruit that has the potential to change not just their own generation, but the ones to come.

## SUPPORT

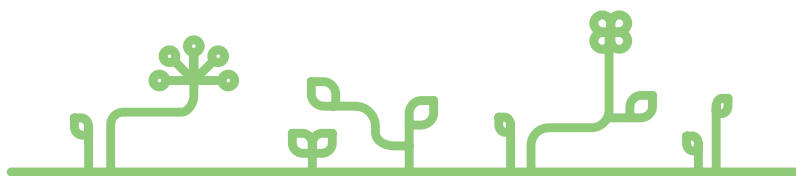
For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:9-11)

Paul wrote the book of Colossians to teach and encourage growth among those who were part of the church at Colossae. At the time, many in the church were being drawn away from truth and falling prey to Gnosticism and other pagan practices. Paul recognized that the solution to their problem was spiritual growth. He recognized the part the Holy Spirit plays in the spiritual growth of believers and prayed for the Holy Spirit's activity in the lives of those who were part of the church.

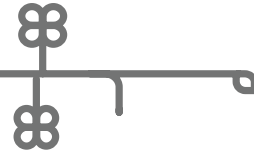
Growing ministries are led by growing leaders. As you prepare for your Family Empowered Events, spend some time meditating on the areas of your life where you may need the active presence of the Holy Spirit to spur you on to growth. Spend some time asking God to show you the areas of your own life where growth is needed and pray for the Holy Spirit to do a work in your heart as you prepare these events for those you are ministering to.



FAMILY EMPOWERED PARENT EVENT



# THE *GROW* PARENT EVENT



## PHILOSOPHY & VISION OF THE *GROW* PARENT EVENT

When the parenting focus is solely on controlling behavior and dealing with the daily grind, parents and caregivers often find themselves disappointed and exhausted. God's call is not to mold the smartest, most athletic, and most compliant children but to create an environment God can use to transform hearts. As parents learn to shift their focus from the physical "here and now" to the nurture of their children's hearts and faith, parenting becomes an exciting and rewarding experience. There is nothing more beautiful than watching God grow the heart of a child.

The goal of the *Grow* Parent Event is to equip parents and caregivers with a perspective of nurturing their children's faith for the sake of God's big story and letting "the things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace" ("Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," Helen H. Lemmel, 1922).

## WHY GROW?

The *Grow* Parent Event is designed to equip parents as the spiritual leaders of their homes. Some of your parents may be new to the idea of spiritual parenting (see *Spiritual Parenting* by Michelle Anthony) and the *Grow* Parent Event offers a great entry point into understanding what it means to create space for the Holy Spirit to nurture their children. For parents who have been through the Spiritual Parenting class or who have read the book, the *Grow* Parent Event is a fresh encouragement offering further equipping as they walk out their role as parents. Through a variety of mediums and fun learning experiences, parents and caregivers will learn what it means to change their focus from looking for approval and advice from those around them, to looking up and seeing how God is working in the lives of their children every day.

