



# THE WAYS

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**GROW FAITH.** Take advantage of every chance you have to form your faith—through small groups, classes, and personal study. Be a disciple and look to learn from those who know more of the Bible and Christian life than you do, then look for opportunities to share what you’ve gained with someone else

1. What is one experience where your faith has grown?

**READ Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

1. Articulate this passage into 21st century circumstances. Did anything change?
2. What does it mean for something to be “on your heart?”
3. Why does having the commandments in so many places matter?

**Scenario:** It feels like for the last month you have not stopped running. There have been deadlines and family drama and different obligations or responsibilities. FPC is pushing small groups, but that seems like one more thing to squeeze into a busy schedule. You know your faith is stagnating a little; but honestly, it feels like a season of life you just need to get through.

1. Have you ever been here before? What was it like?
2. In times like this, why can faith feel like a chore?
3. What can the Deut. passage offer for growing faith within the busyness?
4. What do you think our responsibility is to protect space to grow faith?

We are a community that wants to *Grow Faith*. This doesn’t necessarily mean raise up biblical scholars or regular event attendees. It means taking any opportunity to take steps towards God in trust. You may be far on your journey with God; you might be new to it. No matter where you are, you can *Grow Faith*. Protect time to be with God and to learn to trust him. Don’t keep quiet about it. “Talk about it when you sit at home or when you walk along the road.” *Grow Faith*.

**PRAY TOGETHER.**

(Pray that God would help you find opportunities to grow your faith and pass it on.)

## DAILY Devotional

**MONDAY:** *READ:* Luke 2:52. *THINK:* We normally think of Jesus as the all knowing man of God, but think of him as a middle schooler. Even Jesus grew in wisdom, so why pretend like we have all the answers. When we *Grow Faith*, we humble ourselves before the daunting task of perfectly trusting God. There is always farther to go and more to discover. *PRAY:* the Spirit would show you places your faith can grow.

**TUESDAY:** *READ:* Mark 8:34. *THINK:* Saying Yes to faith will involve saying No to something else. We each have desires which run counter to God's will. Some of those desires are wicked, others are simply do not coincide with His plans. Choosing to *Grow Faith* begins by taking our personal desires and plans and submitting them to Jesus. *PRAY:* through some of your desires and plans, and ask if they are what God has for you.

**WEDNESDAY:** *READ:* 1 Cor 3:7. *THINK:* Don't get ahead of yourself. It is God alone who *Grows Faith*. Sometimes you are called to care for someone and to help them with their faith. Sometimes you are called to share the gospel. No matter how you work to *Grow Faith*, remember that it is God alone who provides the growth. *PRAY:* God would put you in positions to either sow or tend faith in others.

**THURSDAY:** *READ:* James 1:2-4. *THINK:* It is often in adversity and trial when we depend on God the most. In these times, faith grows. Sometimes *Grow Faith* looks like attending a class or small group; sometimes it looks like attending to difficult family dynamics which have existed for years; and still other times it looks like working through where God is when things go wrong. Take every opportunity to *Grow Faith*, even those which may hurt. *PRAY:* for an area in your life which tests your faith. Let God know your struggles and your hurts.

**FRIDAY:** *READ:* Eph 4:14-15. *THINK:* This is the goal we *Grow Faith* towards: Maturity. This is not a person who does not laugh at immature jokes, but someone who is steady in who they are and whom they are called to be. New faith is impressionable and easily dissuaded; but as faith grows, it becomes like a mature tree: firmly rooted and can stand up against the elements. *PRAY:* the Spirit would grow a mature faith within you and firmly root you in God's Word.

**SATURDAY:** *READ:* Phil. 3:13-14. *THINK:* We *Grow Faith* because we recognize that none of us have achieved the goal. We do not know enough, trust enough, pray enough, depend enough, live boldly enough, serve enough, connect enough, or experience God enough. And we never will. The goal may be far ahead, but press on because there is more and more richness of God ahead. *PRAY:* the Spirit would call you deeper into relationship. Confess what holds you back.