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 ***More Parables Jesus Told***, 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 ***More Parables Jesus Told*** 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.]**
	+ Resource Page 1 (Ten Coins)
* 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.]**
	+ One hundred items of your choosing (One Hundred Sheep)
	+ Paper (One Hundred Sheep; Ten Coins; Two Sons and Their Father; The Widow and the Judge)
	+ Writing instrument (One Hundred Sheep; Ten Coins; Two Sons and Their Father; The Widow and the Judge)
	+ Ten coins (Ten Coins)
	+ Crayons, markers, or colored pencils (Two Sons and Their Father; The Widow and the Judge)
	+ Bible reference books or internet-connected device (The Widow and the Judge)

One Hundred Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)

* Read the story “One Hundred Sheep” from *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* (p. 214).
* 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.

* + Modern-Day Sheep Herding, “Education” section, page 4
	+ Counting to One Hundred, “Connections” section, page 4
	+ Feeling Lost, “Grow with More” section, page 12 (skip the part where they look at pictures they drew during the session but invite them to think about what they would say to a frightened sheep).

Ten Coins (Luke 15:8-10)

* Read the story “Ten Coins” from *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* (p 216).
* 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.
	+ Personal Parables, “Education” section, page 5
	+ Coin Hunt, “Engage” section, page 19 (include extra instructions from the preparing to lead section for this activity).

Two Sons and Their Father (Luke 15:11-32)

* Read the story “Two Sons and Their Father” from *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* (p. 218).
* 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.

* + Dirty Pigs!, “Education” section, page 5
	+ Frist-Person Prodigal, “Connections” section, page 6

The Widow and the Judge (Luke 18:2-5)

* Read the story “The Widow and the Judge” from *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* (p. 220).
* 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.

* + Widows in the Bible, “Education” section, page 7
	+ Supporting the Powerless, “Service” section, page 7

Who Was Invited? Who Came? (Luke 14:16-24)

* Read the story “Who Was Invited? Who Came?” from *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* (p. 222).
* 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.

* + A Parallel Parable, “Education” section, page 7
	+ Extending God’s Invitation to the World, “Service” section, page 8
	+ Alphabet Party Game, “Grow with More” section, page 40