

# Curriculum Catalog

## 2015-2016

Growing

A large, stylized blue splash graphic that originates from the right side of the page and curves upwards and to the left, partially framing the word 'Growing'.

in  
Grace & Gratitude

# Supporting You Is Our Mission

## Growing in Grace & Gratitude Helpline

Toll-Free 1.800.728.7228 ex. 8100  
Dial this number to receive support and learn how to make the most of your new curriculum. Our staff is available to assist you Monday to Friday. Voice mail is always available and we promise to respond within 24 hours on the next business day.

## Email Us Your Questions

Growgracegratitude@pcusa.org

## Customer Service

Our representatives are available to help you make the right purchasing decisions for your church setting. Representatives are available at 1.800.533.4371 to answer inquiries in English, Spanish and Korean.

## Online Store

Ordering your curriculum just got easier. To purchase shop [pcusastore.com/curriculum](http://pcusastore.com/curriculum). Online customer service representatives are available to help you complete your purchase.

## Web Site

[growinggracegratitude.org](http://growinggracegratitude.org)  
Visit our this curriculum website to find articles that will support your Christian education ministry, music and audio files that supplement weekly sessions and interactive activities for children.

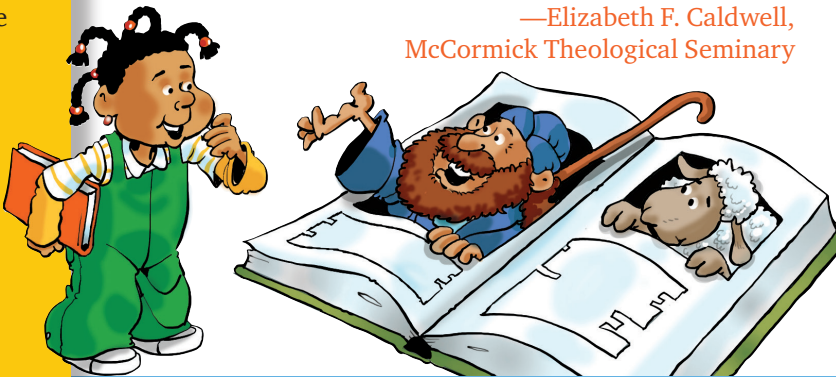
Growing In Grace & Gratitude Curriculum  
Published by  
Congregational Ministries Publishing  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

1.800.533.4371



*“With thoughtful biblical background for the teacher and age-appropriate learning activities, children will grow in their understanding of God’s grace as it is revealed through biblical stories.”*

—Elizabeth F. Caldwell,  
McCormick Theological Seminary



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# Growing in Grace & Gratitude

Each session of *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* is rooted in Bible stories that reveal God’s grace. Children and their leaders will celebrate the meaning of this grace in their lives as they encounter a living God. Through fun activities, prayer, and singing, children will gather in God’s grace and learn to respond joyfully in gratitude.



## Core Values

- Rooted in the foundation of Presbyterian identity where God’s grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship
- Extends an invitation to discipleship that inspires children to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love
- Reaches beyond Sunday morning, encouraging children to live their lives as an expression of God’s grace

## Features

- Engaging Bible stories based on Scripture reveal God’s grace
- Practices hospitality to all children, including leader helps for children with special needs.
- Audio versions of all Bible stories bring God’s word to life.
- Two formats available: print and downloadable PDF
- Narrowly graded for children ages 3–10 as well as a multiage option
- Interactive e-book for families to use at home
- Colorful illustrations spark imagination and reveal God’s grace for us
- Music CD enhances weekly stories
- Available in English and Spanish
- And much more!

[growinggracegratitude.org](http://growinggracegratitude.org)

# Why Grace & Gratitude

**Educator:** I have been hearing about grace and gratitude as a way to articulate our faith as Reformed Presbyterians. Would you tell me a more about this?

**Editor:** Our inability to articulate our identity is rooted in our history. You can ask any group of pastors and elders, “Why are we called Presbyterians?” Someone will answer quickly, “Because we’re ruled by elders.” That’s the right answer, of course, and it gets to an important affirmation of the parity of teaching and ruling elders that is important to us. Nonetheless, it doesn’t really answer the question. Many church traditions have elders in their leadership but don’t call themselves Presbyterians. Many churches have presbyteries, or something very much like them, but don’t call themselves Presbyterians. Most Reformed churches around the world don’t call themselves Presbyterians. We’re called Presbyterians because, at one point in our history, the most significant ecclesial dispute was how the church was to be governed.

The late 16th and early 17th centuries in England and Scotland were a time of revolution against the monarchy and vigorous, new debates about how people should be governed. This discussion on governance spanned both state and church. In political matters, some were monarchists, some favored governance through elected representatives, while others wanted a pure democracy. In a parallel discussion in the church, some people believed in government by bishops; others, government by elders; and still others, government by the people of the congregations—hence, the birth of Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists. Reformed Christians are known as Presbyterians only in England, Scotland, and their descendants around the world. In this formative period of our tradition, governance was the most important question. The legacy of our origin means we often lead with matters of polity to characterize identity. While this is true, but it is hardly a vision that will fuel decades of ministry.

**Educator:** So grace and gratitude is our Presbyterian identity?

**Editor:** What emerges from the core of our identity that compels us to practice Christian community, proclaim the gospel, and work for justice? Grace and gratitude. Grace and gratitude succinctly and winsomely describes the charism, the gift of the Reformed tradition. Each tradition has a gift that it offers to the church ecumenical. Grace and gratitude is our gift to the wider church. Grace and gratitude is our theological and spiritual vision. What is our picture of God? The gracious one who comes to us in creation, in the law, in the prophets, and ultimately in the person of Jesus Christ. The God who sustains us with the ongoing grace of the Holy Spirit. The God who calls us through the church. The God who is for us.

The most profound articulation of this theological and spiritual vision comes from the French baptismal liturgy developed by the Huguenot church in the Reformation:

*Little one, for you Jesus Christ came into the world:  
for you he lived and showed God’s love;  
  
for you he suffered the darkness of Calvary  
and cried at the last, “It is accomplished”;  
for you he triumphed over death and rose in newness  
of life;  
for you he ascended to reign at God’s right hand.  
All this he did for you, little one,  
though you do not know it yet.  
And so the word of Scripture is fulfilled:  
“We love because God loved us first.”*

(French Reformed Church Baptismal Liturgy; Church of Scotland version)

**Educator:** What was the development process for *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*?

**Editor:** About eighteen months ago, the editorial staff of Congregational Ministries Publishing was starting to develop a new denominational children’s curriculum. Since the development was in the infancy stages, we were evaluating the direction the new curriculum should take. We were certain that it needed to be more than just informational. It needed to be transformational.

We were wrestling with how to develop a curriculum that articulates our denominational identity while encouraging young learners to practice Christian community, proclaim the gospel, and work for justice.

When we heard about the idea of “grace and gratitude” from our colleagues in the Office of Theology and Worship, we knew it was our way forward. We could imagine a curriculum that helps transform the lives of children and those who love them, shaped by grace and gratitude.

**Educator:** How is this different than previous PC(USA) denominational curricula?

**Editor:** The key Bible stories that we want children to know are similar to those in any church curriculum, but how the session unfolds reveals the grace of God and our gracious response.

For example, our previous curriculum is based on the children’s catechism. To shape a session on the creation story, we would use Question 7: “What did God create? God created all that is, seen and unseen.” Children would learn what God creates, but would they experience transformation?

*Growing in Grace & Gratitude* focuses the session differently. As you read the story of creation, you discover a glimpse of God’s grace on the first page, hidden in one little word, spoken repeatedly—good. God names creation, including you, “good”; the Hebrew word tov means “beautiful, bountiful, cheerful, fine, good, grace-filled.” God blesses the creation by pronouncing it good. Through the session, children will experience God’s grace as a human being, created in God’s image, called to be a partner with God and with others in fulfilling the purpose of creation: to glorify God.

Same story, different emphasis—much more transformational!

*In grace and gratitude!*



## Age Levels

### Ages 3-5

They play and learn by pretending and mimicking what the adults around them do. Young children learn about spiritual matters the same way they learn about other things—through relationships with caring persons, through their senses, through hands-on experiences, through play, through curiosity. While children this age are literal minded, listening to stories helps to spark a young imagination.



### Ages 5-7

They enjoy engaging with other children rather than just the adults around them. Children of this age pretend and play more imaginative roles outside of those they see in their caregivers. Their imaginations inspire them to craft space ships, be explorers or lions. Many children in this age group are able to read, still at times they may struggle to understand biblical concepts. Encouraged by a sense of wonder at God's amazing ways, they can be reassured of God's love for them—a love that does not depend on what they know or understand.

### Ages 8-10

Are developing an understanding of abstract concepts. They are able to solve problems more independently and modify behavior based on consequences. They are growing in their desire to join teams and groups and can appreciate how God's Word shapes the identity of members of the Body of Christ. Through their love of questions and learning of God's grace, they can grow in their discipleship, inspired to practice hospitality, generosity and love.



### Multiage (Ages 5-10)

A multiage environment is a wonderful place for children of various ages to grow in faith. Differences in the experiences, knowledge, and abilities of the children can be celebrated. It is a joy to observe older children as they help their younger friends. They do so with great pride. As we watch older children respectfully interact with younger ones, we see their potentials unfold. Younger children benefit by modeling actions from their older peers.



# Components of Growing in Grace & Gratitude

## Leader's Material

Solid biblical and theological background for leaders is found in the first section—Recognizing God's Grace. The weekly text is explored and helps to reveal God's grace in Scripture. Sections 'In Your Children's Experiences' and 'In Your relationships with the Children' provide leaders with a clear understanding of the needs, abilities, and interest of the children.

The leader's material features easy-to-use session plans that are organized in three parts—Gathering in God's Grace, Responding in Gratitude, and Loving and Serving God.

- Gathering in God's Grace—Welcoming and preparing children to hear God's Word. This part of the session includes singing and praying, as well as hearing and reflecting on the week's Bible story. It includes a handy, comprehensive "you will need" list and a thumbnail illustration of the Bible story in the sidebar.
- Responding in Gratitude—A selection of age-appropriate activities for leader's to choose based on the class size and time remaining. Some activities require minimal planning and preparation, while others are noted as "More Prep" and will need advanced planning and/or supplies.
- Loving and Serving God—This sending extends an invitation to discipleship that inspires children and their families to practice hospitality, generosity, and love.

The leader's material is available in two formats: a printed book or downloadable PDF.

Each Age-level purchase includes:

- Weekly leader material
- Reproducible Grace Notes\*
- Weekly *Grace Sightings* (see page 9)
- *Stories, Colors & More*
- Free E-book version (see page 9)
- Audio version of the Bible story

\*Grace Notes, included in the leader's material, are black and white reproducible resource pages that provide activities/crafts for the session.

## Stories, Colors & More

Contains all the color resources needed for each weekly session. This essential component of the *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* curriculum is separated into three sections:

- Stories—Bible stories show colorful illustrations that spark imagination and reveal God's grace for us. Words of the Bible stories are on the back, enabling leaders to read each story without flipping pages.
- Colors—Colorful resources, such teaching pictures and maps to use with children.
- & More—Music lyrics sheets and a Visual Schedule for teachers and church leaders provides useful ideas for involving children with disabilities and special needs, essentially offering a safe place of belonging and acceptance to children who may see themselves as different from their peers. The Visual Schedule touches on supporting children who have difficulty communicating or transitioning, or trouble reading and/or writing. It offers practical suggestions for working with children who are visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, and need mobility support. It also provides tips on celebrating the strengths of children through leadership, generosity, and fairness. Colorful icons are incorporated in each weekly lesson of the *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* Leader's Material, offering ways to adapt activities for children who have special needs or disabilities.

*Stories, Colors & More* is included with the purchase of the Leader's Material.



## Music & Melodies

This lively and kid-friendly CD includes sing-a-long songs familiar to us all, as well as new tunes such as *Growing in Grace & Gratitude's* theme song, "We are Blessed to Be a Blessing."

*Music & Melodies* is available for purchase separately. We recommend one CD per age level. "We are Blessed to Be a Blessing" is available as a download on iTunes.

## Grace Sightings

Online resources for children to do at home with their parents or caregivers. It includes the story from the week's session and age-appropriate activities. With *Grace Sightings*, sessions reach beyond Sunday morning, encouraging children to live their lives as an expression of God's grace at home and at school.

## E-book

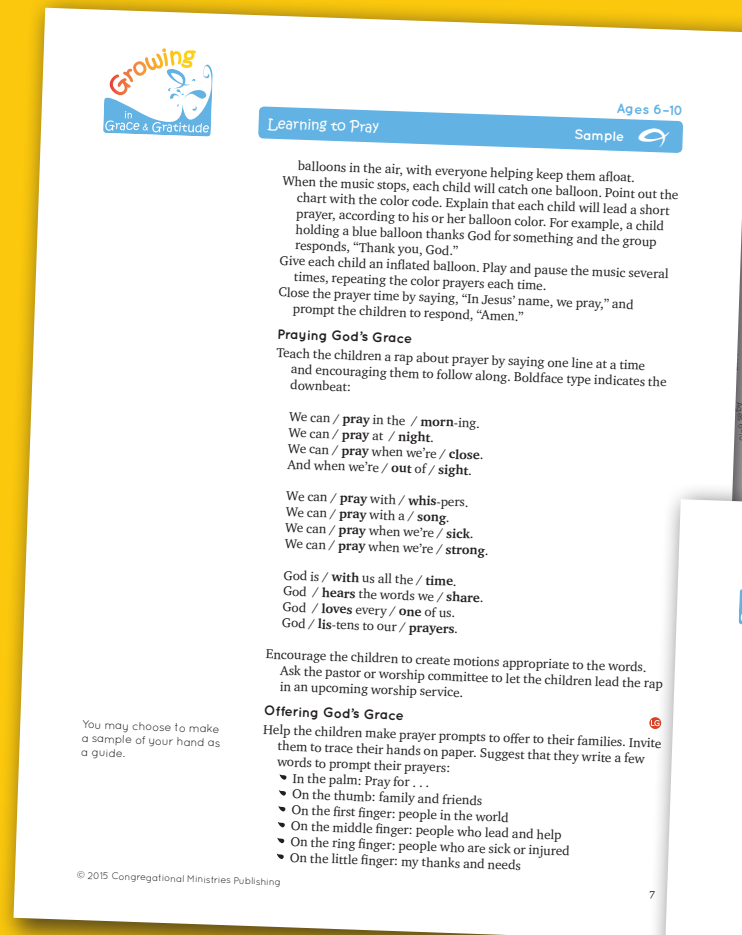
A downloadable, interactive *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* e-book is available free on iTunes for families to use at home. The e-book shares the same colorful illustrations and Bible stories used in weekly sessions.

## 10

1



## Multiage (Ages 5–10) Sample

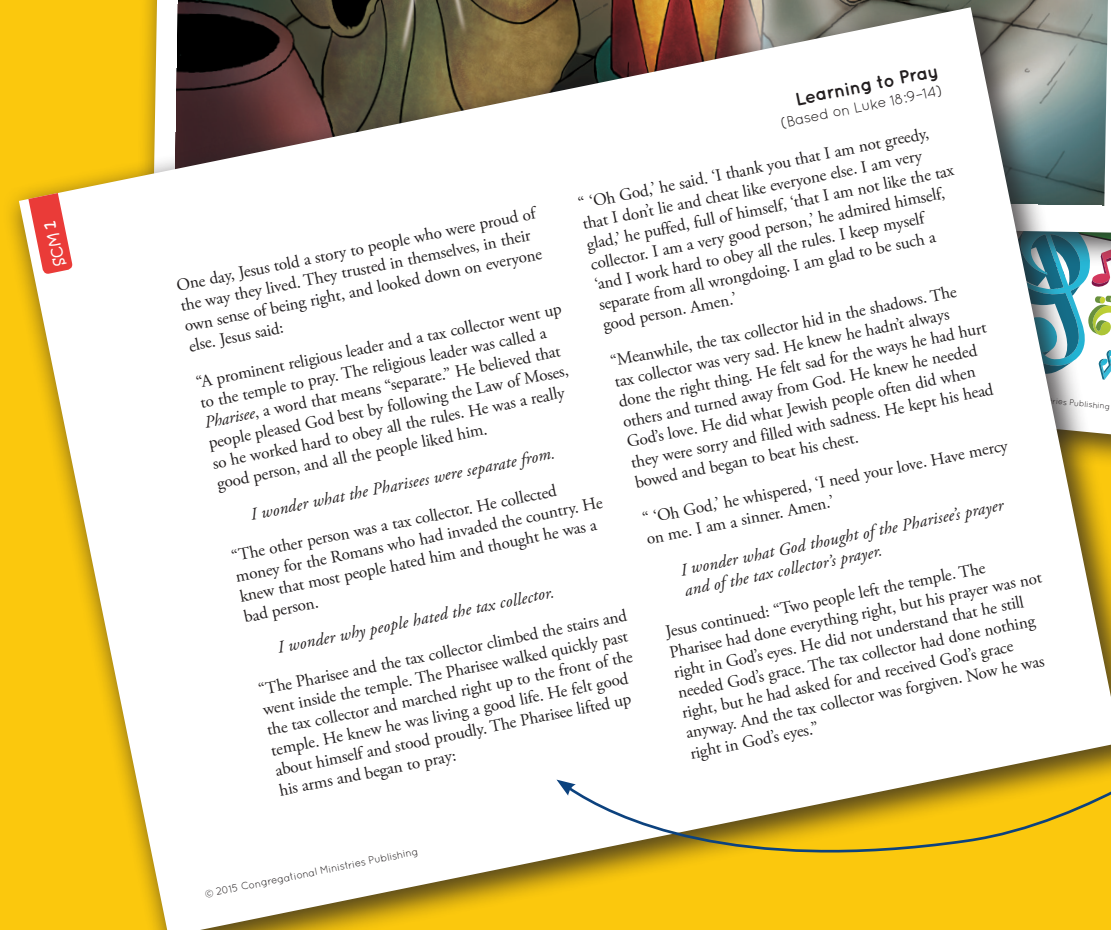
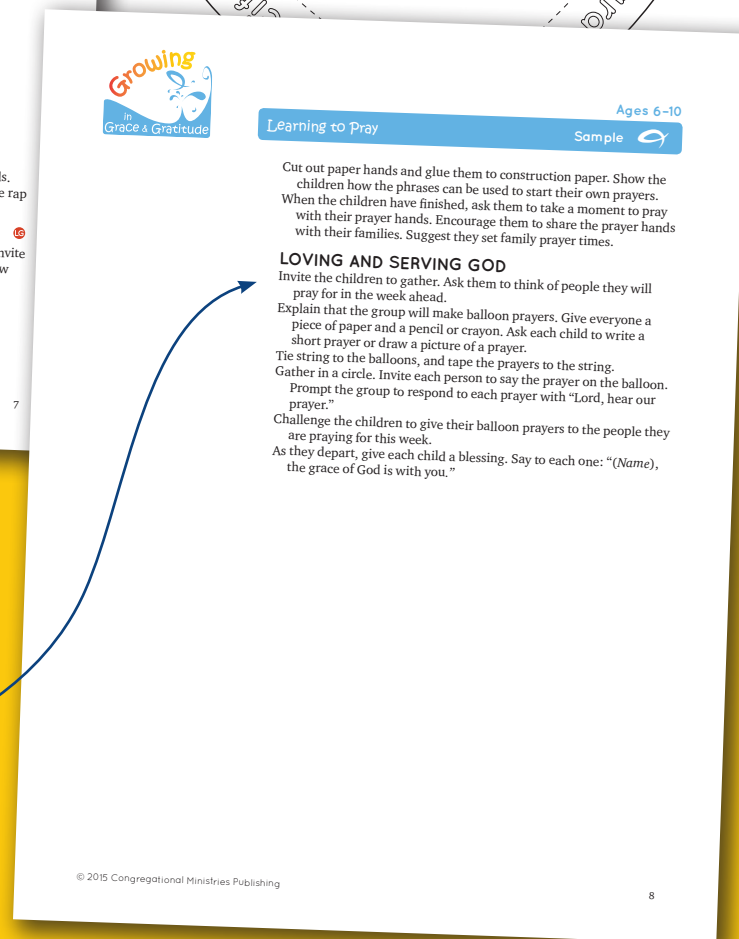
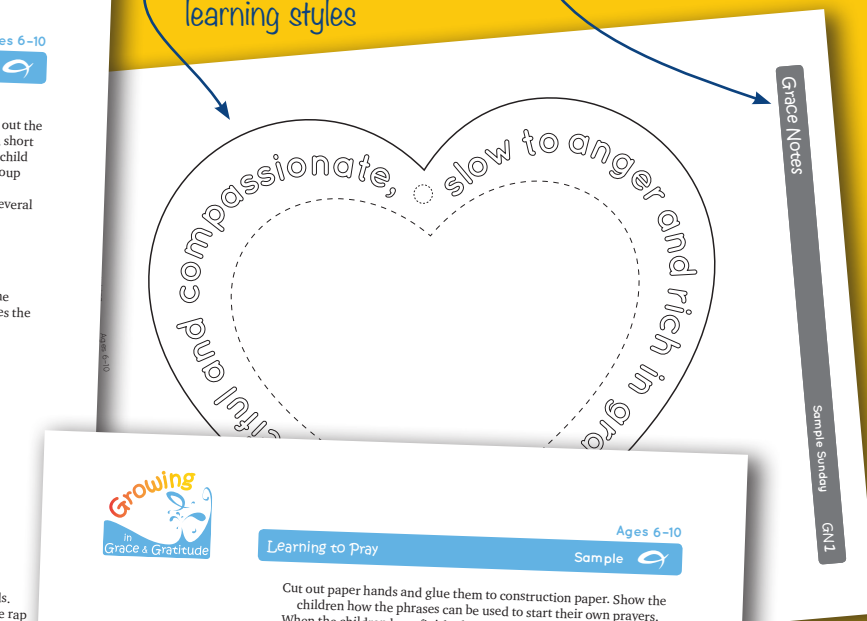


- Extends the invitation to discipleship beyond the session, inspiring children to live as an expression of God's grace

Varying activity sheets suit a wide range of learning styles

Grace Notes indicate a reproducible page—copy as many as you need for your class

Colorful illustrations spark imagination



Lyric sheets provide words to songs found on the Music & Melodies CD

Bible stories are the foundation of the session, and are presented in ways that reveal God's grace.



# Children with Disabilities and Special Needs

Growing in Grace & Gratitude supports an environment that helps children of all abilities experience God's grace.

- Children with Disabilities and Special Needs Support Glossary help leaders become familiar with the developmental terms, descriptions and provides ideas for enabling all children to participate in various activities. Icons from the glossary and notes about specific needs printed in italics are scattered throughout each session.
- The Visual Schedule helps children move through the session providing clear expectations and visual cues for the group.

By consistently and lovingly using these tools, leaders will help their faith community to discover and practice grace-filled ways to be the body of Christ with and for all children.

Guided play sparks experiential learning and promotes children's development

Movement and motion-based activities support the development of motor skills in young children

### Your Weekly Visual Schedule

	Welcoming
	Guided Play
	Getting Ready for Story Time
	Story Time
	Activities
	Snack and Closing

## Growing in Grace & Gratitude

### Learning to Pray

Ages 3-4 (5) Sample Sunday

Help the children learn to pray with assurance in God's grace.

**RECOGNIZING**

... In Luke 18:9-10 The Bible and our Bibles of their position. The good news: Pharisees were proud among the Pharisees, a foil—the p the law and gave with disgust" (v. 5). But the tax collector, righteously or? By portraying a tax collector's heart, we see how we are grateful God before God and a in God's love. No approach the th

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## Children with Disabilities and Special Needs Support Map

© 2015 Congregational Ministries Publishing

## Children with Disabilities and Special Needs Support Map

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Growing in Grace & Gratitude is also Crecemos en gracia y gratitud!

Developed and produced in both English and Spanish languages concurrently, *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* provides opportunities for faith formation in multiple contexts—cultural and otherwise.

Crecemos en gracia y gratitud is available for the following age levels, for all quarters:  
Ages 3–5  
Multiage (Ages 5–10)

*Es una bendición para la niñez de nuestra denominación contar con un currículo como lo es Creceemos en gracia y gratitud. Que importante es que nuestra niñez reciba enseñanza cristiana basada en nuestras creencias, edificando una base en los comienzos de su vida cristiana. Que hermoso es que puedan aprender de gracia, bondad, gratitud; creencias que han de moldear sus vidas, con experiencias variadas, interesantes y pertinentes.*

*It is a blessing for the children of our denomination to have such a curriculum as Growing in Grace & Gratitude. It is important for our children to receive Christian teaching based on our beliefs, building a base at the beginning of their Christian lives. How beautiful it is that they can learn grace, kindness, gratitude; beliefs that will shape their lives, with varied, interesting and relevant experiences.*

Anc. Florence Vargas

Miembro del Comité asesor para el trabajo con el ministerio hispano/latino IP (EE. UU.) (Ruling Elder and member of the Advisory Committee for the Offices that work with Hispanic/Latino Ministry)



crecegraciagratitude.org

Faith Questions  
Grace and Gratitude

This four-session study for youth explores the questions: “What is Grace?,” “Why Do I Need Grace?,” “Does Grace Mean I Can DoAnything I Want To?,” and “How Does God’s Grace Change My Life?”

Faith Questions studies are based on faith questions asked by Presbyterian youth. Each session encourages young people to look to Scripture, as well as our faith tradition, in relevant and responsive ways.  
690509 \$15.95

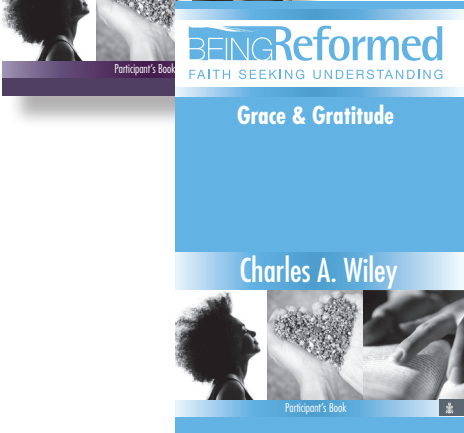
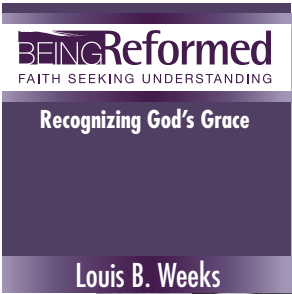
Being Reformed Series

*Being Reformed* studies provide adults with a foundational understanding of our Reformed faith. Each six-session study features Scripture, a prayer, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection.

**Recognizing God’s Grace**, Louis B. Weeks  
Through Scripture, history, theology, and practical life examples, this study looks at grace in the Bible, throughout Christian history, and through Reformed understandings.  
Participant’s Book: 690730 \$4.95  
Leader’s Guide: 680729 \$8.95

**Grace and Gratitude**, Charles A. Wiley  
Participant’s Book: 680814 \$4.95  
Leader’s Guide: 680813 \$8.95

coming soon



# How to Order

1

## Choose the resources that are RIGHT for your church.

### Age levels:

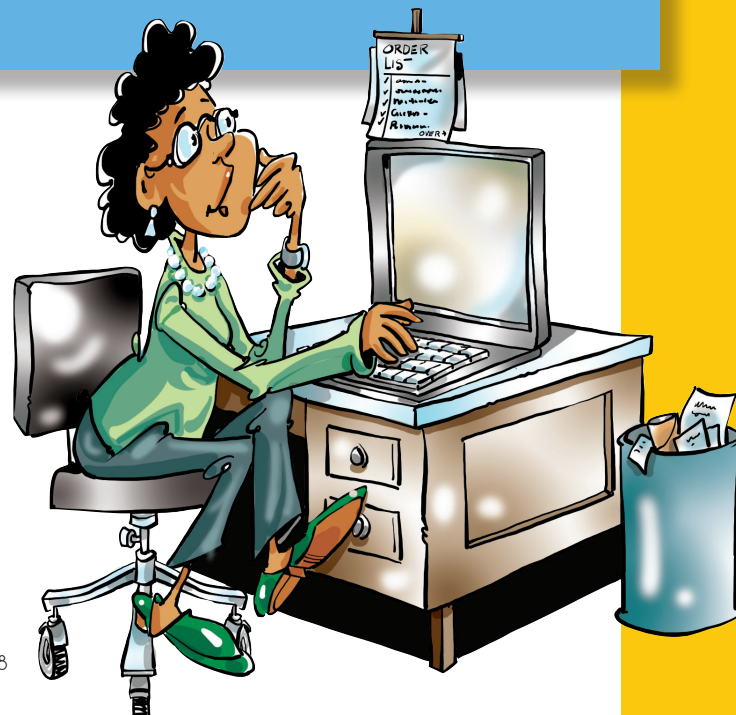
- Ages 3–5
- Ages 5–7
- Ages 8–10
- Multiage (Ages 5–10)

### Each Age-level purchase includes:

- Weekly leader material
- Reproducible Grace Notes
- Weekly *Grace Sightings*
- *Stories, Colors & More*
- Free E-book version (available on iTunes)
- Audio version of the Bible story

### Music & Melodies

Audio CD (one per age level)



2

## Choose the format that is RIGHT for your church.

- Choose the products and age-levels that you would like to order. Choose the 9-month subscription for the best value. Only Ages 3–5 and Multiage (Ages 5–10) are available to order during the summer quarter.
- Choose the format that best serves your church. Ordering your materials in the downloadable format provides immediate access and offers the lowest price. If downloading and printing are a challenge for your church, choose the printed format for a small premium. Both the downloadable format and the printed leader materials include a free *Stories, Colors & More* with each age-level purchase. (For the downloadable format, the *Stories, Colors & More* is shipped each quarter).

### Pricing

#### Quarterly Pricing

(Fall, Winter, Spring, \*Summer)

#### Per Age-level:

Printed	\$55
Downloadable format	\$50

#### 9-Month Subscription

(Fall, Winter, Spring)

#### Per Age-level:

Printed	\$130
Downloadable format	\$120

<i>Music &amp; Melodies</i> (Annual CD)	\$20
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\*Ages 3–5 and Multiage (Ages 5–10) only

(Additional *Stories, Colors & More* are available for \$10 each per quarter, per age level)

3

## Choose how you would like to order.

To place your order online you will need the following information:

- Church name, address, and phone number.
- The address you would like all printed material sent to (this includes *Stories, Colors and More* and *Music & Melodies* CDs for children's age levels), if different than the billing address.
- A credit card number with expiration date and CVC code, correct billing address and contact information, or your church's PIN number.

### To place your order by phone:

Follow the steps 1 and 2 and then call 800.533.4371.

### NEED HELP ORDERING?

Help is just a phone call or e-mail away. For help ordering online or accessing materials already purchased call 800.533.4371 or e-mail [customer\\_service@wjkbbooks.com](mailto:customer_service@wjkbbooks.com). Our customer service representatives are available Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm EST. If you are calling outside of these hours, your call will be returned within 24 hours on the next business day.

4

## Place your order.

### For downloadable format:

- Go to [pcusastore.com/curriculum](http://pcusastore.com/curriculum) and click the *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* tab.
- Choose the downloadable resources you would like to order.
- After you have finished choosing all the resources you wish to purchase, proceed to checkout.
- You will then be directed to create an account. Note, if you have previously registered on [pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com), use the user name and password previously established. If you forget your log-in information, click on the "forgot my password" button.
- Once you have created your account, you will be directed to the billing page. You may use a credit card or choose the "bill my church" option. If you choose to bill your church, the downloads will be accessible 72 hours after your order has been placed and billing information has been verified. (See estimated online dates below.) Credit card purchases ensure immediate access to the resources.
- Once your order has been placed, the printed *Stories, Colors & More*, or *Music & Melodies* CD that you may have ordered will be shipped to you (or the designated shipping address provided). These printed resources will be shipped on a quarterly basis.

### For printed format:

Follow directions provided for online ordering and simply choose the printed format listed in each age-level category.

	Estimated shipping dates:	Estimated online dates:
Fall	July 15, 2015	July 7, 2015
Winter	October 15, 2015	October 7, 2015
Spring	January 15, 2016	January 7, 2016
Summer	April 15, 2016	April 7, 2016



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

[growinggracegratitude.org](http://growinggracegratitude.org)

- Rooted in the foundation of Presbyterian identity where God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship
- Extends an invitation to discipleship that inspires children to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love
- Reaches beyond Sunday morning, encouraging children to live their lives as an expression of God's grace

## New children's curriculum

*Coming fall 2015!*

*"Growing in Grace & Gratitude tells our children that our deepest values are around God's gracious gift to us in Jesus Christ, a gift that evokes a life of gratitude in service to God and the world."*

—Charles A. Wiley,  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

