

Growing in Grace & Gratitude Curriculum Workshop Template

(Adapt for 1 ½, 2, to 2 ½ hour workshops)

Supplies for welcome table:

Name badges
Grace/gratitude wondering question sheets

For preparing the space:

Materials such as fabric, Bible, cross, symbols, battery candles or real with matches to create worship space

On tables when arrive (one per participant):

GGG catalog
Sample books or sessions (enough sets to share)
Prayer cards
Sign-up sheet for e-blasts from pcusatore.com (one per table)

For activities during the session:

Balloon chart with color-coded questions (one per table)
Matching color-coded balloons (enough for one of each color for each table)
Spin wheel components, paper fasteners, scissors

Optional (see last activity in Responding section):

Audio version of the story
Music, CD player and speakers, or laptop/phone and speakers

Welcoming

Provide a welcome table where participants can pick up nametags and a copy of the grace and gratitude wondering questions. Encourage attendees to reflect on the questions and to be ready to share their thoughts and responses after everyone arrives.

When ready to begin, open with the words “The Grace of Christ be with you” and prompt the participants to respond with, ‘and also with you’.

Greet the participants, thanking them for attending and introducing yourself and other leaders who may be present. Ask for a show of hands for the educational ministries represented in the church—teaching elders, educators, children’s ministry directors, volunteers, ruling elders, others?

Invite people to share some of their responses to the questions they answered while gathering. Be ready to model by sharing your own thoughts as an icebreaker.

Where do you recognize God's grace in your life?

What are some of the ways you respond to God's grace?

(Where, when, or how) do you celebrate God's grace with gratitude?

If time allows, invite two or more attendees to share why they came to the curriculum workshop and their hopes for this time together or why they are interested in the curriculum.

Recognizing God's Grace (curriculum development)

Share background information about curriculum development that you have learned from POINT tools and communications, from attending a curriculum introductory workshop, and from the *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* catalog, such as:

Why new curriculum (see Presbyterian Mission Agency e-blast about the curriculum)

Why grace and gratitude (from page 4-5 of catalog, the leave behind about these theological concepts developed by Charles Wiley, including the French Baptism liturgy)

Core values of the curriculum (from page 3 of the catalog)

Central importance of biblical story and practicing hospitality, showing the Support Map and the weekly visual schedule as tools the curriculum provides for graciousness toward children, their families, and the faith community (catalog p. 15)

As time allows, ask if there are any questions about what participants have heard so far.

Gathering in God's Grace

Modeling one of the rituals encouraged in the curriculum, invite participants to transform the workshop space into a worshipful space with the materials found on the tables (provide a bible, candle, cloth, etc.). While they are doing this, explain the importance of ritual in the Gathering section of all sessions and that is similar in all age levels. Invite them to light their candles and to join you in the opening prayer found on the prayer cards (noting that all activities used in the workshop are from one of the age group sessions and the order of the workshop models the flow of a session).