

Abiding Word Lutheran Church
Spiritual Growth Plans



A Spiritual Growth Plan is a way to grow closer to your dear Savior by making his Word and his work a bigger part of your life. God wants us to do this and he promises great rewards!

From the following list, prayerfully choose items that you want to use for your spiritual growth, or use other material that may interest you. Our pastors will gladly make suggestions! Make your list as long or as short as you think is reasonable and attainable. No matter where you are on your journey, challenge yourself to try something new.

Make a list of your choice(s) and put the list in a visible place. Sometimes setting a deadline for yourself is helpful, or share it with an accountability partner if that works for you. Begin to enjoy your time with God. Over time, as you make progress on your goal, update the list and continue your

growth!

1. Regular worship attendance, in person or available at AbidingWordTX.org
2. Regular participation in the Lord's Supper
3. Regular Bible study attendance
4. Regular Sunday School attendance for your children
5. Get your own study Bible
6. Teach Sunday School or our teens
7. Read your Bible – see the "Ways to Read your Bible" list for ideas
8. Memorize a verse each week and then meditate on it in your free minutes
9. Read a daily or weekly devotion
10. Have family devotion with your children
13. Help your children remember their Sunday School lesson, and/or prepare for next week
14. Pray more often, asking God to strengthen your faith
15. Participate in some of the midweek Bible studies at Abiding Word
16. Read some of the People's Bible commentaries or books from the People's Bible Teaching series (in our church library)
17. Review your catechism
18. Volunteer in our school or for projects at church
19. Consider putting your children in Abiding Word Lutheran School

11. Attend a Bible Information Class
12. Read blogs sent out by Forward in Christ, Time of Grace, or other WELS sources
20. Ask your pastor a question each month

Many Ways to Read Your Bible

1. Read through the Bible, cover to cover, like any other book
2. Read the prophetic books of the Old Testament
3. Read sections about Jesus' miracles
4. Follow reading plans like Through My Bible in 1 Year, or 3 Years (plans available in *Meditations*, on Biblegateway.com, and on WELS.net)
5. Read the Verse of the Day from Biblegateway.com and meditate on it
6. Read from a Chronological Bible
7. Alternate between reading a chapter from the Old Testament, then the New Testament
8. Do a deeper dive in your reading:
 - What is God telling me?
 - What people of faith are being talked about, and what can I learn from them?
 - How would I respond if I were there?
 - How do I apply this to my life? Of what do I need to repent?
 - What 'ah-ha' moment did I have today?
 - How does this lead me to pray?
 - Do I know someone who needs to hear this?
10. Do an even deeper dive in your reading by using extra resources for new insight:
 - Read the text in multiple translations at BibleGateway.com
 - Read footnotes in the *Concordia Self-Study Bible* (NIV 11) or *The Lutheran Study Bible* (ESV)
 - *The People's Bible* and *People's Bible Teachings*, available in our church library
 - *Concordia Self-Study Commentary* by Walter Roehrs and Martin Franzmann, available in our church library
 - *Prepare the Way of the Lord: An Introduction to the Old Testament* by Andrew Steinmann and Reed Lessing (a good overview of the Old Testament)
 - *The Word of the Lord Grows, A First Historical Introduction to the New Testament* by Martin Franzmann (a good overview of the New Testament)

- *The Life & Times of Jesus the Messiah* and *Bible History: OT* by Alfred Edersheim
- *Popular Commentary of the Bible* (KJV) available at KretzmannProject.org
- *Bible History Commentary* by Werner H. Franzmann
- *The Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* by Walter Elwell

How Do I Find Good Devotion Material?

There are many good devotion books available for sale at NPH.net. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

1. Read monthly publications of *Forward in Christ*, available at NPH.net or in the church narthex
2. Read daily devotions in *Meditations*, available at NPH.net or in the church narthex
3. Watch the Abiding Word daily devotion on our Facebook or Instagram pages

4. Make use of online materials:

- wels.net/serving-you/devotions (weekly & daily devotions for individuals, teachers, families, military members, and more)
- wels.net/news-media/podcasts
- timeofgrace.org (written and video devotions, podcasts, and TV programs)
- wels.app
- whataboutjesus.com

5. Consider some of these books:

- *For Such a Time as This* available at NPH.net
- *Together with Jesus* by Richard Lauersdorf, or any of his numerous books
- *Daily Reading from Luther's Writings*, edited by Barbara Owen
- *For Advent: Behold I'm Coming Soon* by Bruce A McKenney, JP Meyer and James E. Rath; *The Mom God Chose* by Sarah Habben
- *For Lent: Up to Jerusalem* by John Braun

¿Qué pasa si prefiero estudiar en un idioma diferente?

1. Recursos en otras lenguas en-línea: online.nph.net/multi-language-publications.html
2. Tenemos *La Biblia Popular* (comentario de la Biblia para la gente) en español en la biblioteca de la iglesia.

