



Personal Plan of Growth

Prayer Guide

2024

This is a very relevant statement by Chuck Swindoll as we begin a new year. "There is an enormous difference between growing old in the Lord and growing up in Him. One is automatic and requires no effort at all ... just aging. But the other is never automatic, or easy. It calls for personal discipline, continual determination, and spiritual desire. Churches are full of sleepy saints who are merely "logging time" in God's family." What is your personal plan for spiritual growing up in the Lord. Or are you just "logging time?" Let's be clear, it is God who brings the growth, but we must put ourselves in position to grow. You have heard it said, failing to plan is planning to fail. Jesus gives us a model for growth.

The days after Jesus and his family visited Jerusalem for Passover are known as the silent years. However, we do know that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52) The word grew (prokopto) means to advance or keep cutting one's way forward as through a forest or jungle. The idea is to blaze a trail into new territory that has never been experienced before. The trail of 2024 lies ahead, untraveled by any of us. Let's join together in launching into the new year with the same determination as the Apostle Paul. "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things." (Philippians 3:13-15)

This prayer guide from Luke 2:52 can be a year-long tool for growing. Each day is marked by verses to guide you in your prayer time. Chew on one verse each day and ask these questions—How is God calling me to think differently? How is God reordering my heart's affection—what I love? What is God calling me to do as I go about my day today?

Luke 2:52

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

MONDAY - GROW UP IN THE LORD

And Jesus **grew** in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- **2 Peter 3:18 (NLT)** Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- **Hebrews 6:1 (MSG)** So come on, let's leave the preschool fingerprinting exercises on Christ and get on with the grand work of art. Grow up in Christ.
- **1 Peter 2:2 (ESV)** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.
- **Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)** just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.
- **Ephesians 4:15 (NAS)** we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ...

**What steps will you take to grow in blazing a new trail for 2024?
Record your steps and thoughts in your journal each day.**

TUESDAY - GROW IN WISDOM

And Jesus grew in **wisdom** and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- **Proverbs 2:6 (TEV)** It is the LORD who gives wisdom; from him come knowledge and understanding.
- **James 1:5 (NLT)** If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.
- **Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)** Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it costs all you have, get understanding.
- **Ephesians 5:15 (NIV)** Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise.
- **Proverbs 11:2 (NIV)** When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

**What steps will you take to grow in wisdom and understanding?
Record your steps and thoughts in your journal each day.**

WEDNESDAY - GROW IN STATURE

And Jesus grew in wisdom and **stature**, and in favor with God and men.

- **1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV)** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?
- **1 Corinthians 6:15 (NLT)** Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ?
- **1 Corinthians 6:18 (NIV84)** Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)** Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who live sin you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.
- **1 Corinthians 9:27 (NLT)** I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.
- **Proverbs 17:22 (ESV)** A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

**What steps will you take to take care of your physical being?
Record your steps and thoughts in your journal each day.**

THURSDAY - GROW IN FAVOR WITH GOD

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in **favor with God** and men.

- **Isaiah 66:2 (HCSB)** I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and trembles at My word.
- **Proverbs 3:3-4 (NLT)** Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people.
- **Psalms 84:11 (NIV)** The LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.
- **Psalms 90:17 (NIV)** May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.
- **Psalms 106:4 (NIV)** Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people, come to my aid when you save them,
- **Proverbs 3:34 (ESV)** Toward the scornful he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.

**What steps will you take to grow in favor with God?
Record your steps and thoughts in your journal each day.**

FRIDAY- GROW IN FAVOR WITH OTHERS

And Jesus **grew** in wisdom and stature, and in **favor with** God and **men**.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)** So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.
- **Proverbs 3:3–4 (NLT)** Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.
John 13:34–35 (NIV) "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- **Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
1 John 3:16 (ESV) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.
- **1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

What steps will you take to develop relationships with family, friends, and nones? Record your steps and thoughts in your journal each day.



SCAN FOR MORE
RESOURCES



SCAN FOR A PERSONAL
DISCIPLESHIP PLAN



BRIAR
CLIFF
CHURCH