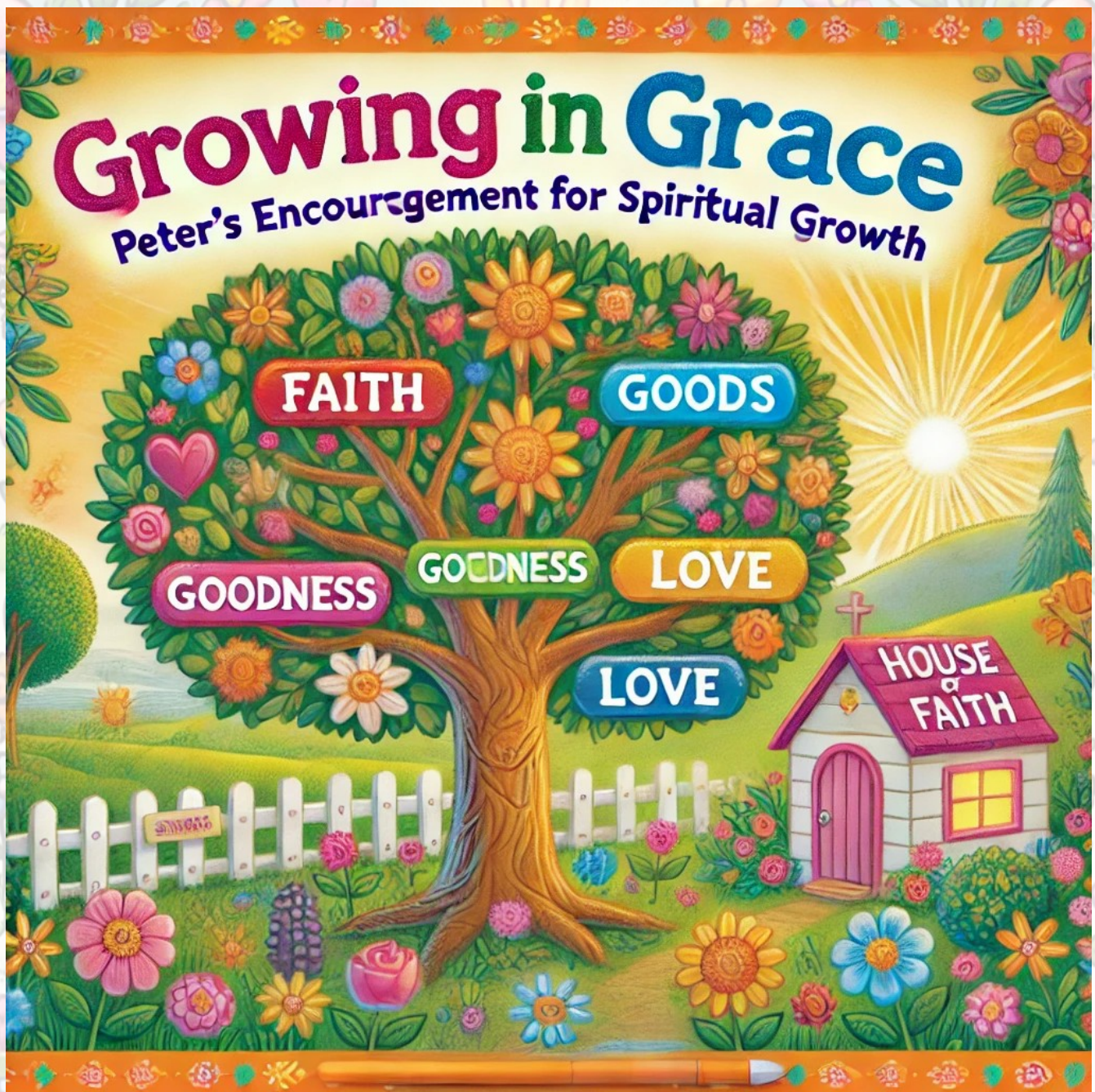




Growing in Grace: Peter's Encouragement for Spiritual Growth

Activity and Summary Sheet: Growing in Grace

Introduction

Blog Summary

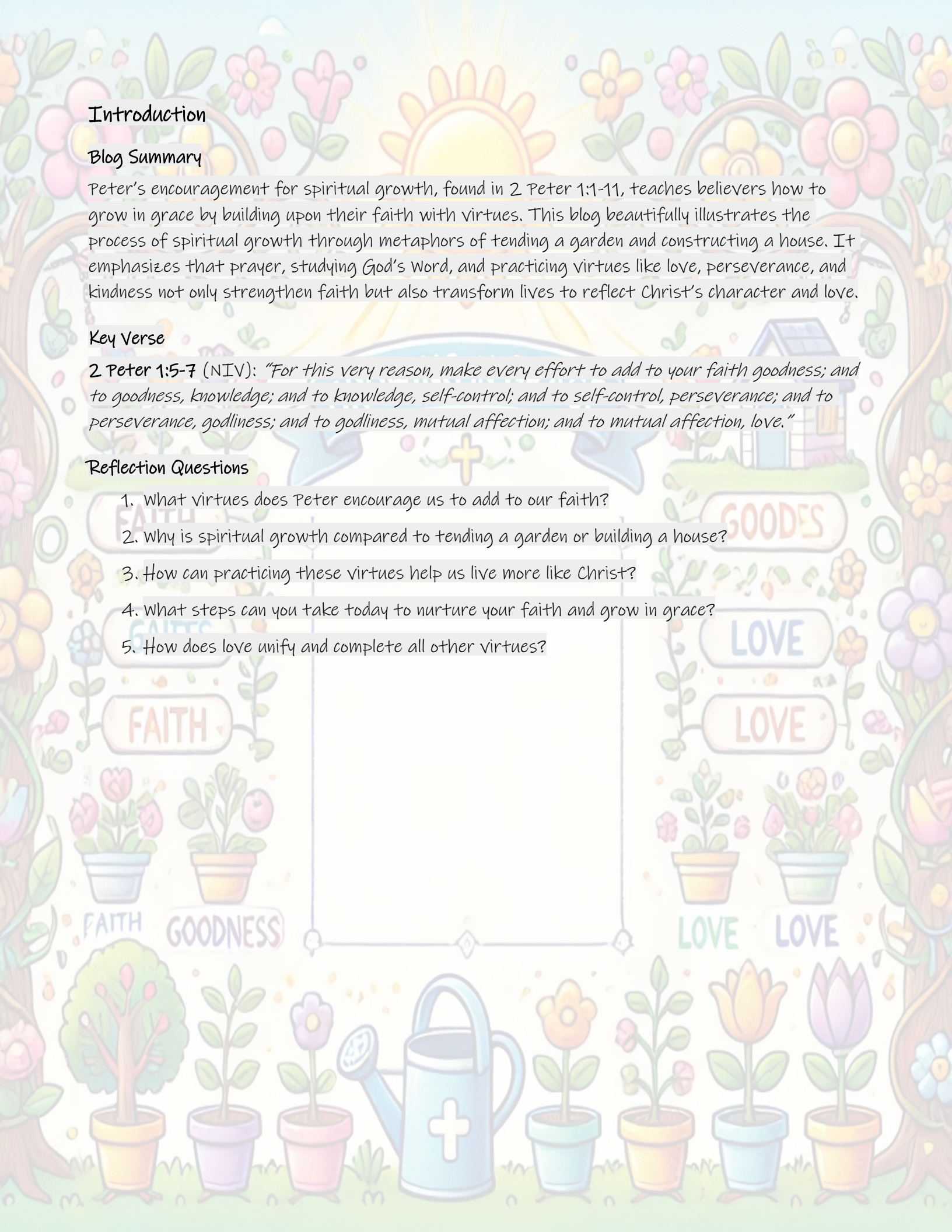
Peter's encouragement for spiritual growth, found in 2 Peter 1:1-11, teaches believers how to grow in grace by building upon their faith with virtues. This blog beautifully illustrates the process of spiritual growth through metaphors of tending a garden and constructing a house. It emphasizes that prayer, studying God's Word, and practicing virtues like love, perseverance, and kindness not only strengthen faith but also transform lives to reflect Christ's character and love.

Key Verse

2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV): "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love."

Reflection Questions

1. What virtues does Peter encourage us to add to our faith?
2. Why is spiritual growth compared to tending a garden or building a house?
3. How can practicing these virtues help us live more like Christ?
4. What steps can you take today to nurture your faith and grow in grace?
5. How does love unify and complete all other virtues?



Section 1: Interactive Activities

1. Faith Garden Craft

Objective: Visualize spiritual growth as a flourishing garden.

Materials Needed:

- Colored paper, scissors, markers, glue, and craft sticks.
- Templates of flowers, trees, or plants (optional).
- A small box, vase, or container to serve as the garden base.

Instructions:

1. Cut out flower shapes and label each one with a virtue from 2 Peter 1:5-7 (e.g., faith, goodness, love).
2. Decorate each flower with creative designs, such as patterns or Bible verses.
3. Attach flowers to craft sticks and "plant" them in a small box or vase filled with sand, pebbles, or shredded paper.
4. Add additional decorations, like butterflies or rainbows, to represent God's grace nurturing your growth.
5. Discuss as a family how each virtue helps faith grow and reflect Christ's love.

Reflection:

- How can you "water" your faith garden daily through actions and prayer?
- What kind of "fruit" (or changes) do you hope to see from living out these virtues?
- How does working on this craft remind you of God's active role in your growth?

2. Build the House of Faith

Objective: Reinforce the interconnectedness of virtues by constructing a visual representation.

Materials Needed:

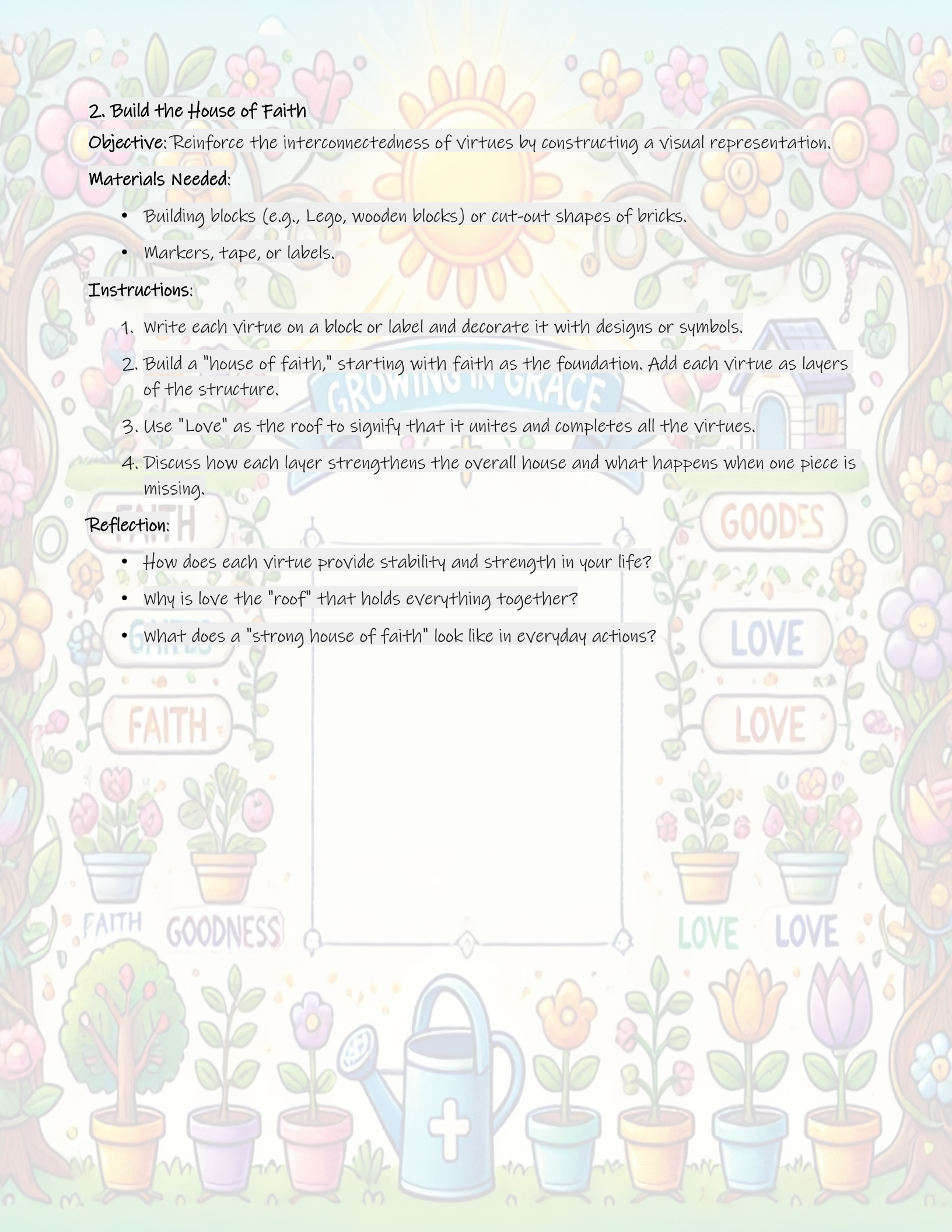
- Building blocks (e.g., Lego, wooden blocks) or cut-out shapes of bricks.
- Markers, tape, or labels.

Instructions:

1. Write each virtue on a block or label and decorate it with designs or symbols.
2. Build a "house of faith," starting with faith as the foundation. Add each virtue as layers of the structure.
3. Use "Love" as the roof to signify that it unites and completes all the virtues.
4. Discuss how each layer strengthens the overall house and what happens when one piece is missing.

Reflection:

- How does each virtue provide stability and strength in your life?
- Why is love the "roof" that holds everything together?
- What does a "strong house of faith" look like in everyday actions?



3. Virtue Scavenger Hunt

Objective: Explore practical ways to embody virtues in daily life.

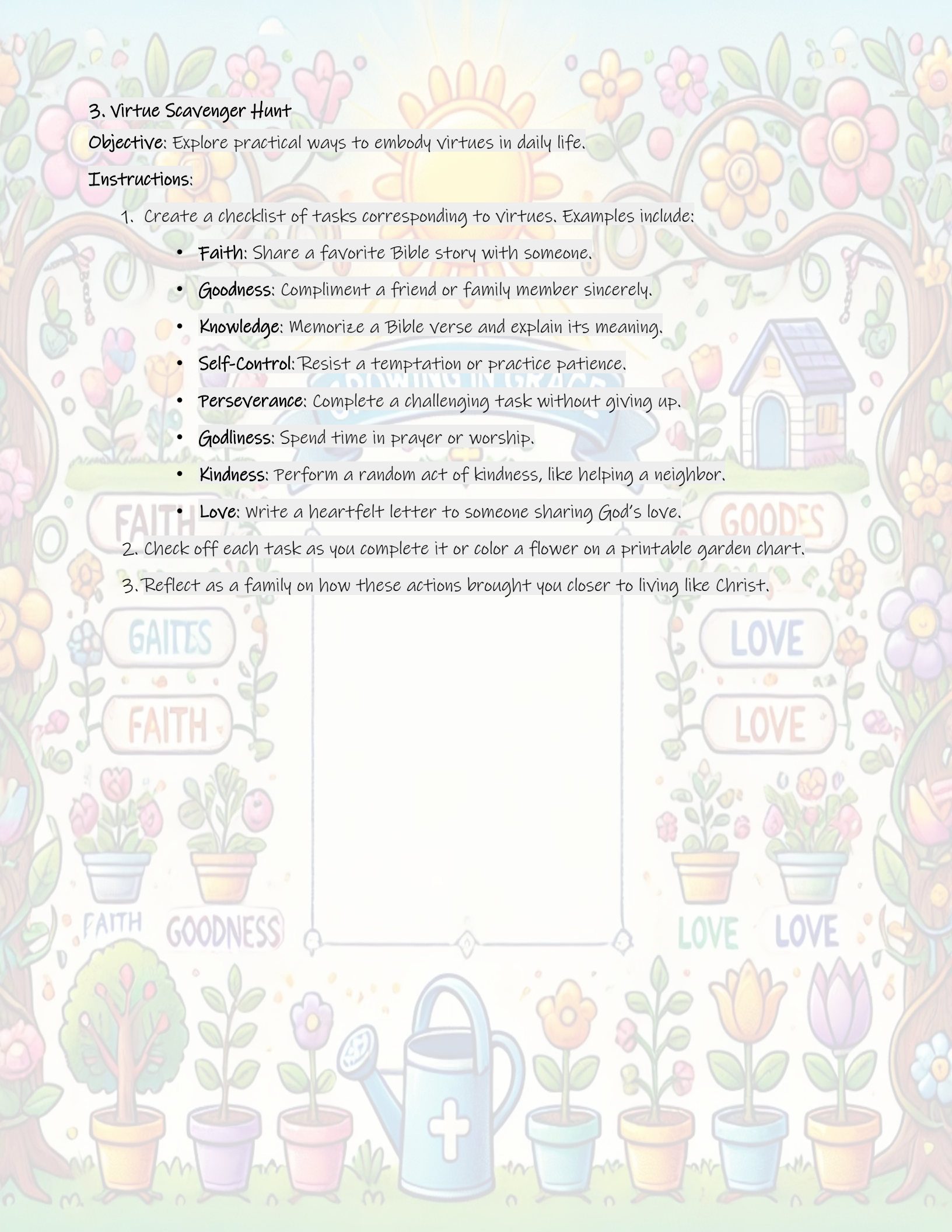
Instructions:

1. Create a checklist of tasks corresponding to virtues. Examples include:

- **Faith:** Share a favorite Bible story with someone.
- **Goodness:** Compliment a friend or family member sincerely.
- **Knowledge:** Memorize a Bible verse and explain its meaning.
- **Self-Control:** Resist a temptation or practice patience.
- **Perseverance:** Complete a challenging task without giving up.
- **Godliness:** Spend time in prayer or worship.
- **Kindness:** Perform a random act of kindness, like helping a neighbor.
- **Love:** Write a heartfelt letter to someone sharing God's love.

2. Check off each task as you complete it or color a flower on a printable garden chart.

3. Reflect as a family on how these actions brought you closer to living like Christ.



4. Virtue Tree Journaling

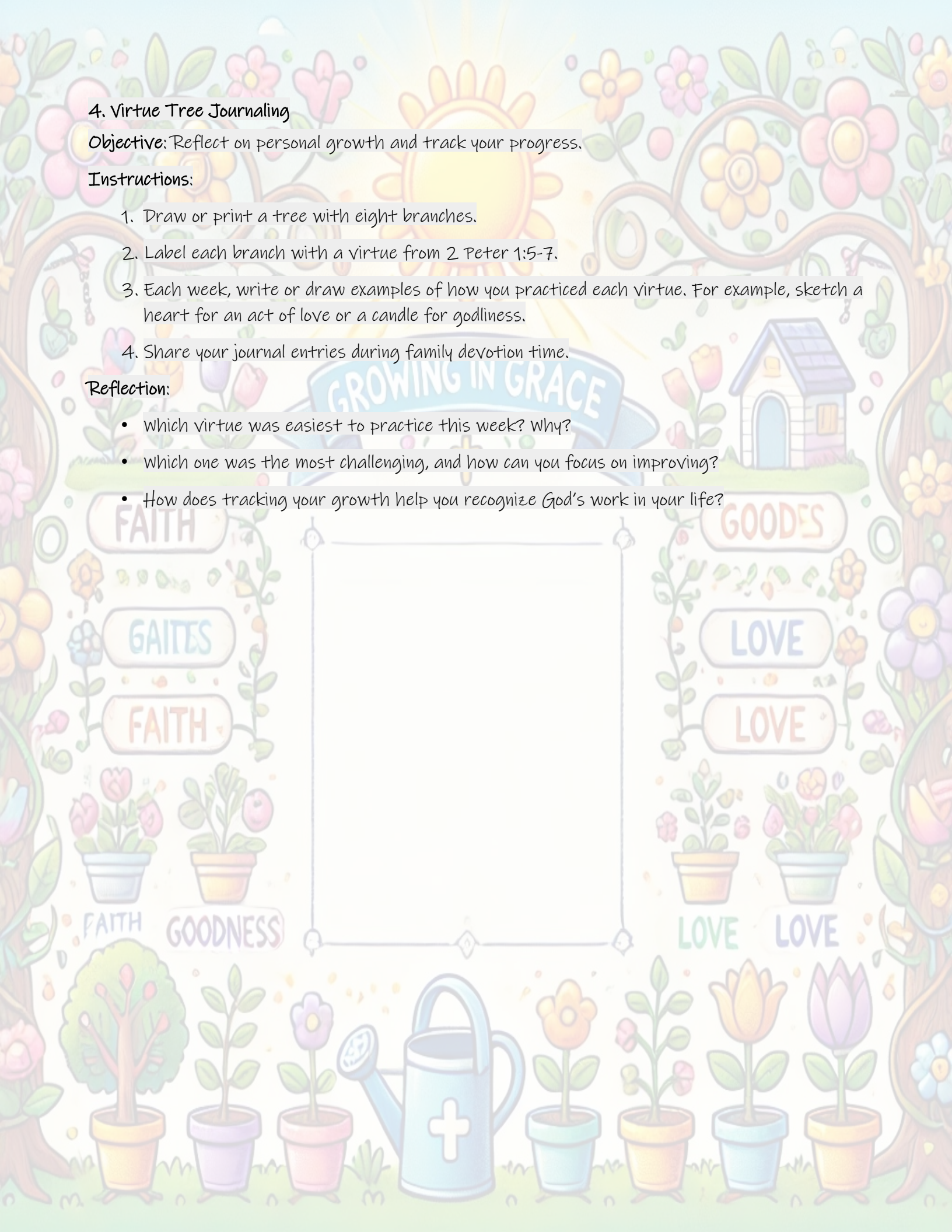
Objective: Reflect on personal growth and track your progress.

Instructions:

1. Draw or print a tree with eight branches.
2. Label each branch with a virtue from 2 Peter 1:5-7.
3. Each week, write or draw examples of how you practiced each virtue. For example, sketch a heart for an act of love or a candle for godliness.
4. Share your journal entries during family devotion time.

Reflection:

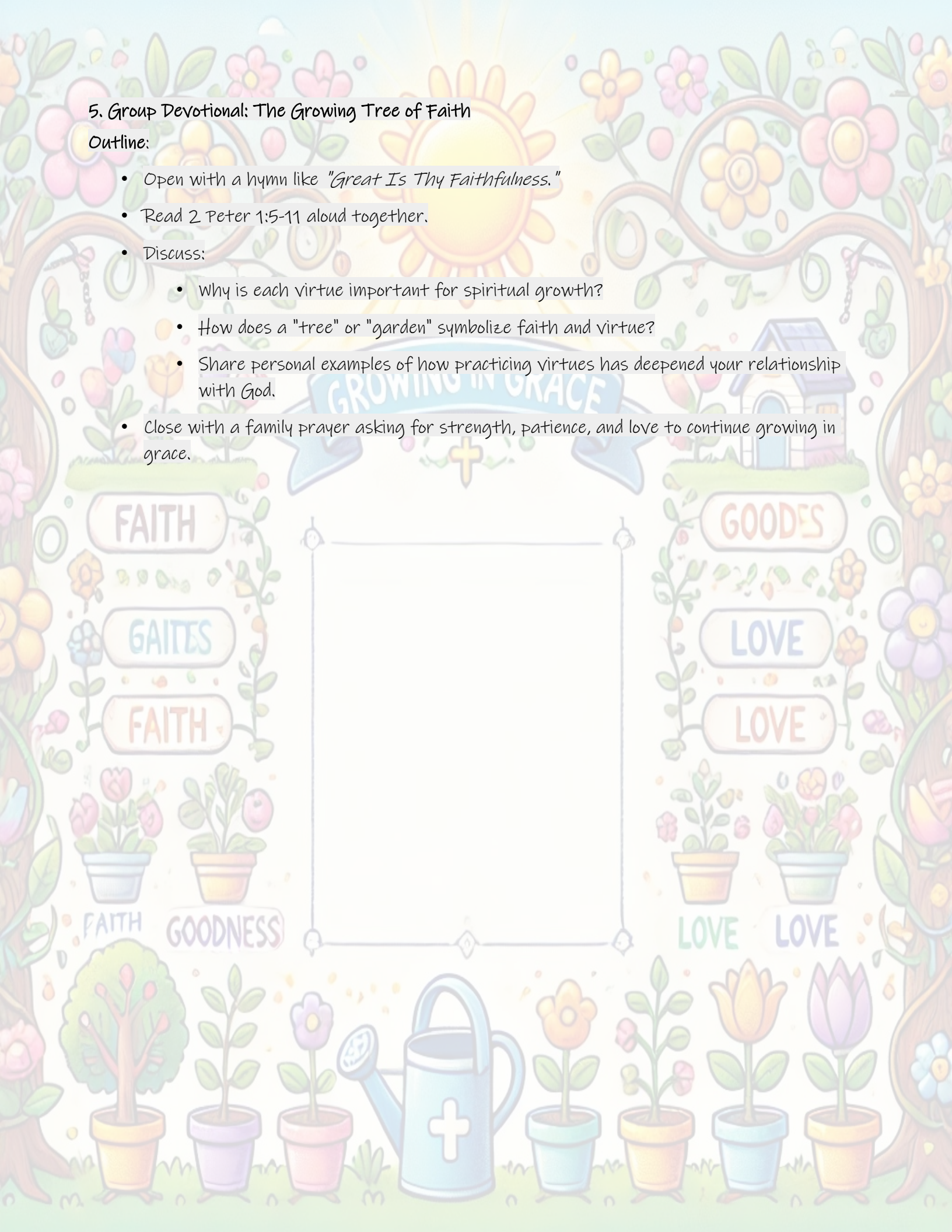
- Which virtue was easiest to practice this week? Why?
- Which one was the most challenging, and how can you focus on improving?
- How does tracking your growth help you recognize God's work in your life?



5. Group Devotional: The Growing Tree of Faith

Outline:

- Open with a hymn like *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness."*
- Read 2 Peter 1:5-11 aloud together.
- Discuss:
 - Why is each virtue important for spiritual growth?
 - How does a "tree" or "garden" symbolize faith and virtue?
 - Share personal examples of how practicing virtues has deepened your relationship with God.
- Close with a family prayer asking for strength, patience, and love to continue growing in grace.



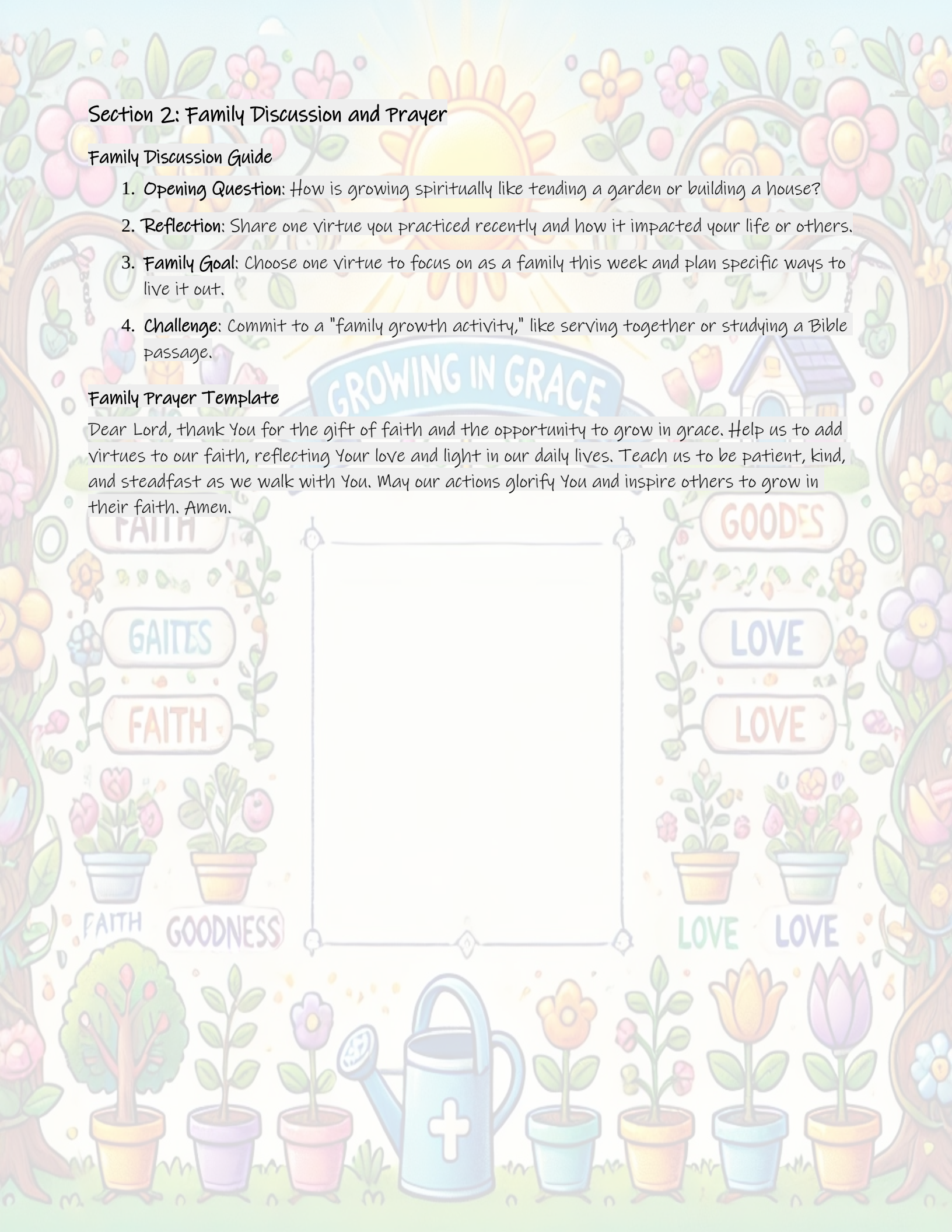
Section 2: Family Discussion and Prayer

Family Discussion Guide

1. **Opening Question:** How is growing spiritually like tending a garden or building a house?
2. **Reflection:** Share one virtue you practiced recently and how it impacted your life or others.
3. **Family Goal:** Choose one virtue to focus on as a family this week and plan specific ways to live it out.
4. **Challenge:** Commit to a "family growth activity," like serving together or studying a Bible passage.

Family Prayer Template

Dear Lord, thank You for the gift of faith and the opportunity to grow in grace. Help us to add virtues to our faith, reflecting Your love and light in our daily lives. Teach us to be patient, kind, and steadfast as we walk with You. May our actions glorify You and inspire others to grow in their faith. Amen.



Section 3: Additional Resources

Bible Study Tools

- **Bible Gateway Kids:** <https://www.biblegateway.com/kids> – Fun and interactive Bible study resources.
- **YouVersion Bible App:** Includes interactive plans focused on spiritual growth and family devotions.

Printable Activities

- **Virtue Coloring Pages:** Each page highlights a virtue with corresponding verses and images.
- **Faith Garden Maze:** Guide a seed to the sun, symbolizing growth in Christ.
- **Memory Verse Cards:** Printable flashcards to help memorize verses about virtues and faith.

Recommended Books

- *God's Garden of Grace* by [Author Name]: A guide to cultivating virtues in daily life.
- *Growing in Faith: A Children's Devotional* by [Author Name]: Devotions designed for children to explore spiritual growth.

Videos

- **"Faith as a Garden":** A short animated video explaining spiritual growth. ([Example](#))
- **"Virtues in Action":** Practical demonstrations of living out virtues in everyday life.

Section 4: Reflective Wrap-Up

Family Pledge

Write your family's pledge: *We will grow in grace by adding virtues to our faith, reflecting God's love and light in everything we do.*

Visible Reminder

Place your Faith Garden craft, Virtue Tree journal, or House of Faith in a central location as a daily reminder to practice and grow in grace.

