

## Chapter 1

### Growing More Like Jesus

“Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,” Ephesians 4:15, RSV.

“Hi. I’m Heidi.”

“And I’m Eric.”

We live in the little Green Mountain State called Vermont. The hills are all very green in the summer, and white with snow in the winter. Many people come to our mountains from other states to ski in the winter. In the fall people come to see the beautiful fall colors-the trees are bright with red, orange, gold, and yellow leaves.

The house where we live is off-white with black shutters at the windows. The house sits near the edge of a pasture. From the windows we can see cows grazing in the pasture in the summertime.

Around the pasture is a rock fence. Long, long ago the farmers carried the rocks from their fields and made fences around the fields and pastures. There are still lots of rocks. People still build rock fences.

Our two Siamese cats chase chipmunks that make their homes in the spaces between the rocks. Chipmunks are so quick that they usually get away from the cats. But when a cat does catch a chipmunk we are sad. We know in heaven cats won’t chase or catch chipmunks. Nothing will ever be hurt there.

Our family has lots of fun together. We like to read and sing and play games and do all sorts of things together. But we are not always happy. We learn from our unhappy times too.

The stories in this book are about our family. Each story has a special Bible verse that goes with it. We hope you think about the story and the verse each day. We can grow together-you at your house and we at our house. The verse for today says, “Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way... into Christ.”

We hope you have fun reading our stories as you keep growing more like Jesus every day.

Let’s Talk About It:

Is the family always happy? Can you learn from unhappy times you sometimes may have? Who are we to grow up to be like? Every day ask yourself the question, “Am I growing up like Jesus would want me to?”