

**NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:**  
**Love Like Jesus!**  
***April Focus: Encourage***

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for April is “*Encourage*.” Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the video teaser for “*Encourage*,” which can be found on the Discipleship Challenge website at [www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship](http://www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship). The teaser videos are meant as conversation starters...the real learning and growth takes place in your discussions that follow the video!

You are encouraged to use these questions in your homes, during coffee hour, at ministry meetings, wherever you have the opportunity to dwell on and discuss what it means for us as individuals and as a family of faith to **Love like Jesus!** The questions are arranged in a way that allows you to move deeper into the conversation as you feel comfortable. They need not be done all at once and there is no right or wrong answers. You have all month (and beyond!) to dwell on these questions. The point is to make room for some thoughtful and deliberate discussion.

And remember, our spiritual hunger to grow and deepen our faith has nothing to do with success, getting the “right” answer, or works. It’s all about living – fully living – into the grace of God as God’s children... as disciples, following Jesus in our daily life!

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and for your willingness to grow in your discipleship to Christ our Lord!

For more information and resources on the Discipleship Challenge:

**[www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship](http://www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship)**

# April 2013

## Love Like Jesus: ENCOURAGE!

**STARTERS TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING 😊:** (\*some of the following is taken and adapted from information on NEMN Practice Discipleship Learning Curriculum)

***“The most powerful message we can give our neighbors and those we meet in life is the knowledge that Jesus loves them; Jesus forgives them; Jesus accepts them as they are: and Jesus is always generous and gracious.”\****

- Describe a time when someone has offered you encouragement in school, work, or any other activity. Who was it that encouraged you? How did you receive that encouragement?
- Describe a time when you offered encouragement to another. What was that like? How was your encouragement received?
- Look again at the above quote. Can you describe a time when you encouraged another that they were deeply loved by Christ?
- Can you describe a time when someone else encouraged you with the message that you are loved deeply by Christ?

### **WADING INTO DEEPER WATERS:**

***“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”***  
***1Thessalonians 5:11***

- How is our own faith and our willingness (or unwillingness) to encourage others in faith connected?
- Why do you think it is difficult sometimes to encourage others in the faith and the hope that we share?
- What are some ways in which you could encourage another on their own faith journey?
- What ministries do you currently participate in that encourage you in your life of faith? How are they an encouragement to you?
- What ministries would you like to see? How might you encourage others to participate?