

**NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:**  
**Love Like Jesus!**  
**April 2014 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 and Bishop Aitken’s video challenge for “*Encourage*,” which can be found on the Discipleship Challenge website at [www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship](http://www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship). The teaser and challenge videos are meant as conversation starters...the real learning and growth takes place in your discussions that follow the videos!

You are encouraged to use these questions in your homes, during coffee hour, at ministry meetings, in youth group - 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)**

# Love Like Jesus: ENCOURAGE!

April 2014

## Something to Think About:

*I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples. – Mother Teresa*

- Describe a word or act in history that created ripple of change. How has that encouraged you in your life? How has that encouraged others?
- Describe a word or act in your personal life that created a ripple of change. How has that encouraged you in your life? How has that encouraged others?

## Wading Into Deeper Waters:

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

- What are ways that you encourage others?
- How does your congregation encourage members? Those in the community?
- What are new ways you might encourage – build up – those in your family? In your community? In your congregation? At work?

*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*- Romans 15:4-6*

- How does your faith encourage you? Share an example, if possible.
- What scripture passage gives you encouragement?

*There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread.  
– Mother Theresa*

- Who is one person you can find this month to be a genuine encourager to?
- How might you encourage this person?
- How might you involve others to help you encourage this person?