The 2014-2015 NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge

Dig deep together on a faith journey to...

KNOW the Story

BE the Story

TELL the Story

...of Christ's love in the world.

October: GIVE

All of us are living a story. Together we are living in the middle of God's story – for us, and for our neighbor. Faith practices help us on our faith journey to KNOW God's Story for our lives and the world…to BE God's story of love and reconciliation in the world…and to TELL God's Story so the world can know they are part of God's Story.

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod Discipleship Challenge focuses on the faith practices of *Give, Invite, Serve, Study, Worship, Prayer, and Encourage.* There are many more, and we hope you explore others on your journey as well!

The faith practice focus for the month of October is *GIVE*. Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the "Give" video teaser and Bishop Aitken's video challenge, which can be found on the Discipleship Challenge website at 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 KNOW the Story, BE the Story, and TELL the Story of Christ's love in the world!** 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 and to add your own. 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!

www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge: KNOW…BE…TELL the Story! October 2014: GIVE

My Story

- What is a story of *giving* that has made an impact on your life? Maybe it's a story from your life, maybe it's a story you know from someone else's life.
- How did that experience/story inspire you…challenge you…teach you?

KNOW the Story

- Read Mark 6:30-44, the story of the Feeding of the 5000.
- What does this story teach us about *giving*?
- Is this a story of scarcity or abundance? Why?
- How is *giving* part of God's Story for us?
- What other Bible stories can you think of that talk about God's *giving*? What stories talk about God *giving* in abundance when all we see is scarcity?

BE the Story

- In Mark 6:37, when Jesus tells the discipleship, "YOU give them something to eat," they respond with one excuse after another. What are some of the excuses you have made, or you hear others making, that keep us from *giving*?
- What are ways you *give* back to God with your time? With your money? With your gifts/skills?
- What other ways do you *give* to God?
- How has *giving* been part of your faith journey? How has *giving* helped you grow in your faith?

Tell the Story

- What keeps you from talking about *giving* with your children, your friends, your parents, your co-workers, your neighbors?
- What would you want to share with others about *giving*?
- "Let me tell you a story," is the last line in the teaser video. What story can you tell? How could your story/experience with *giving* encourage…inspire…teach…challenge others to grow in their faith through *giving*? How could you share that with others?
- How does telling our story of *giving* share Christ's love in the world?