

# **NE MN SYNOD DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE:**

# **Love Like Jesus!**

## ***October Focus: GIVE***

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for October is “Give.” Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the video teaser for “Give,” 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 humorous 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 (*YES – discuss your giving with your children!*), 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 his children... as his disciples!

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

## **Love Like Jesus: GIVE!**

### **Discussion Guide: October 2012**

Okay, goofy video(!), but our discipleship practice of **GIVING** (like all of the ancient discipleship practices) does take some effort, thoughtfulness, and care in order for it to be ingrained into our life of faithfulness. And so we begin our exercise of faith...

**FOR STARTERS:** (*adapted from information on NEMN Practice Discipleship Learning Curriculum and GivingBetter.org*)

- **Personally, what was the most meaningful gift you ever made to the church or church related ministry?**
- **What was the least meaningful?**
- **Who has been your biggest influence when it comes to your views on giving back to God?**
- **What lessons did he/she teach you?**

There are over 1,200 verses in the Bible that refer to give, giving, or gift. The gifting of ourselves to others and to the world is obviously very important to God. Take a look at the following verses:

*“And (Jesus) sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into it. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two copper coins, worth about a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.’” Mark 12:41-44*

*Paul said, “And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:32-35*

- **What do these verses have in common?**
- **What in these verses really speaks to you?**

## **WADING INTO DEEPER WATERS:**

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11*

- **How do you think the giving of yourselves through sharing your God-given time, talents, and money reflects God’s plan for you? How is it hopeful? How do you prosper by giving yourself away?**
- **How would you best describe your personal plan for giving? Does it reflect your values and what you see as your partnership with God in the world? How so?**

*“For you know the generous act of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9*

- **Who benefits from your giving?**
- **What benefits do you receive by your generosity?**
- **Why is it important to give?**
- **What are the roadblocks to giving? How can we move past them to Love like Jesus?**

For more information and resources on the Discipleship Challenge:

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