

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:
Love Like Jesus!
October 2013 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 and Bishop Aitken’s video challenge for “*Give*,” 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 **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

Love Like Jesus: GIVE!

OCTOBER 2013

The 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...

THIS MONTH'S THINKER: How do we (or do we really?), incorporate the discipleship practice of intentionally "giving" into our daily walk?

STARTERS TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING:

Best guess, How much time do you spend thinking about the following each day:

- What am I going to wear?
- What am I going to eat for breakfast, lunch, dinner?
- What chores/tasks do I need to get done?
- How much of my time, talents, or money am I going to share with someone else?

Are you happy with how the above breaks down? Why or why not. What, if anything would you like to change?

WADING INTO DEEPER WATERS:

"Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen" ELW, p. 129.

This prayer is often used following the collection of the offering. Let's take a closer look:

- Is the offering a part of our life that we "plan" for, or is it something that just happens and we don't give much thought to how we do or don't participate? How does our planning (or lack thereof) mimic the rest of our life of faith?
- What do you think it means when we pray that God has blessed us with these gifts? What does it mean to be blessed?
- What does it mean when we pray that God might use us and all that we have for the feeding of the world? What do you have from God (remember, God is the one who blessed us with it in the first place) that the world need?

"I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give to you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up." Acts 3:6-7

- How does your generosity transforms the life of the church? The community? The neighbor?
- How does it change our attitude toward giving when we give in the name of Christ?