

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge: Love Like Jesus!

Family Discussion Guide October 2013: GIVE!

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for October is “Give.” You are encouraged to use this discussion guide after dinner, as you drive from one activity to the next, on a Sunday afternoon – whenever or 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! There are no right or wrong answers, no right or wrong way to do this...the point is to make room in your lives for thoughtful and deliberate faith conversations.

This guide is based on the “Faith 5,” a 5 step way of having caring conversation, reading the bible, praying and blessing one another. It was developed by Rich Melheim and the team at Faith Inkubators (www.faithink.com). You might make this process part of your daily family discipleship practice as you become comfortable with the “Faith 5” steps. There is also an activity to do together as a family to help you live the faith practice on a daily basis, which is what the Discipleship Challenge is all about!

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 discipleship, following Jesus in our daily life!

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

For more information and resources on the Discipleship Challenge:

www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship

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An idea to keep in mind:

Giving has something to do with living with your “hands open” to receive gifts from God (talents, time, money) and to give of those gifts to others. When we live with our “hands closed,” keeping everything we have close to us and being unwilling to let go of it or share it, we are not giving or loving like Jesus. Keeping our “hands closed” also keeps us from receiving with thanksgiving from God and others. Use this idea of holding tight or living with open hands, or letting go, as you talk about giving with your family this month.

Faith 5 Family Time

SHARE: Do a check-in with everyone in your family. Share highs and lows of the day or week with each other. Then ask, what does it mean to give? What kinds of things do we give? Did you give this week or did anyone give to you? How do you think God gives to us?

READ: Mark 12:41-44, the story of the Widow’s Offering. Encourage children to look this up and read aloud from their own Bible as they are able. Consider reading from a Children’s Bible, if you have one, for younger children.

TALK: How many coins did the widow give? How many coins were others giving? Why do you think Jesus thought the disciples should notice how the widow gave? How do you think Jesus wants us to give? How could our giving be a blessing to others?

PRAY: Pray for each other’s highs & lows, and ask God to help your family to give generously of all God has given you.

BLESS: Say a blessing for each person. You can make the sign of the cross on their forehead and say: “(Name), may God who is rich in mercy and love bless you always so that you may be a blessing to others.”

Family Discipleship Action Idea:

Make a list of all the resources your family has...possessions, money, food, time, special gifts/abilities. Young ones can help by drawing pictures or writing words if able. How can your family use these resources to give? Each week this month give to others using one of the resources on your list.