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.



September: INTRODUCTION

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 month of September is an introduction to this year's Discipleship Challenge. Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the "Introduction" 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. 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! September 2014: INTRODUCTION

My Story

- What is a story from your summer? Maybe a vacation? A family event? A camp or mission trip experience?
- What was meaningful about that experience?
- How did it impact you or shape you?

KNOW the Story

- Read Mark 1:1 "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."
- Every child knows the best stories start with "In the beginning..." or "Once upon a time..." How are the gospels like a story? How are they more than a story?
- What is the "good news" the writer of Mark is telling?
- How did this Story change the lives of the people living in that time? How does it continue to impact and shape our world?

BE the Story

- Think back to your story from this summer. How was your faith following Jesus part of that story?
- Think about your life story.
 - o What is a time you have felt strong in your faith?
 - o What is a time you have felt weak?
 - o What has equipped you to follow Jesus in your daily life?
 - o How has following Jesus changed you or shaped you into the person you are?

Tell the Story

- Who first told you the Story of Jesus? How did they share God's Story with you?
- If you were telling this story of the good news, what would you include?
- Who is someone in your neighborhood, your congregation's neighborhood, your work place, your school...who needs to hear this good news about Christ's love for them?
- How can you share the Story of Jesus with that person this week?
- How might knowing God's Story change/impact their life?

