

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:

Love Like Jesus!

November Focus: INVITE

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for October is “*Invite.*” Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the video teaser for “*Invite,*” which can be found on the Discipleship Challenge website at 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 with your spouse, children, parents what it means as a disciple of Jesus to be inviting!*), 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: INVITE!

Discussion Guide: November 2012

STARTERS TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING ☺: *(some of the following is adapted from the NE MN Synod Practice Discipleship Learning Curriculum, www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship)*

- **Of all the different options you have, why do you come to this church?**
- **What’s your favorite part of being a part of this faith community? Why?**
- **If someone asked you about your church experience, what would you tell them?**
- **If someone asked you about your “God” experience, what would you tell them? How are these two questions alike/different?**

WADING INTO DEEPER WATERS:

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’”
John 1:45-46

- **When was the last time you were invited to something (wedding, party, etc.) How did it make you feel to get the invitation?**
- **When was the last time you invited someone to church? Do you remember the circumstances behind the invitation? Do you remember the response you received?**

According to surveys*, 82% of unchurched people say they would likely attend a church if they were invited. Why is it hard for us to invite people to “Come and see” as Philip did? *stat from “The Unchurched Next Door” by Thom Rainer

“We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.” ELW, Holy Baptism, pg. 231

- **When we say “join us” we are offering an invitation. Is it an invitation just to those who are baptized and already in church, or does the invitation go further? How so?**
- **What about Holy Communion? When the pastor(s) invite everyone to our Lord’s table do you think the invitation goes beyond those who are already present?**
- **Brainstorm some ways in which we can be more inviting. Please share your ideas with the pastors and church council members!**

For more information and resources on the Discipleship Challenge:

www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship