

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:
Love Like Jesus!
Family Discussion Guide November 2013: INVITE!

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for November is “*Invite*.” 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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Something to Think About:

Faith is not meant to be a private connection between you and God. Faith is a gift to be lived out in the world, and it always draws us into being in community with others. At baptism, we are made children of God, members of the church, and grafted into the body of Christ. We are individually important and known to God, but our identity is revealed in our belonging in the family of God. Invitation is an essential practice for the continued life of community, and as we live out our faith we can invite others to know Jesus. We are called to invite others to live in community with us, to hear God's Word, to share in a meal, to grow in faith together. By inviting others to know Jesus through our words and actions, you are being the good news Jesus has called you to be as his disciple.

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.

READ: Read together the story of Zacchaeus found in Luke 19:1-10.

TALK: What was Zacchaeus doing in the tree? What did Jesus do when he saw Zacchaeus in the tree? How did Jesus' invitation change Zacchaeus's life? What opportunities do we have to invite others to know Jesus?

PRAY: Pray for each other's highs & lows, and pray for opportunities for your family to invite others to know Jesus.

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:

Invite a neighbor or someone you know to worship with you or to have a meal at your home this month. Assign each member of your family a role in the inviting and welcoming actions. How is the way your family lives out your faith inviting others to know Jesus?