

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.



Family Discussion Guide November: INVITE

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 and your family explore others on your journey as well!

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 KNOW the Story, BE the Story, and TELL the Story of Christ's love in the world!** There are no right or wrong answers, no right or wrong way to do this. You can do different sections at different times, or pick and choose what will work for your family. The point is to make room in your lives for thoughtful and deliberate faith conversations.

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 as a family in your discipleship to Christ our Lord!

www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:

KNOW...BE...TELL the Story!

November 2014 Family Discussion Guide: INVITE

KNOW the Story: *How is the faith practice “invite” part of God’s Story?*

READ: John 1: 25-51 from your Bible or the excerpt below.

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

TALK:

- What is happening in this text? Retell this story in your own words.
- When the disciples are curious about where Jesus is staying and what Jesus is up to, what does Jesus invite them to do? (Come and see)
- Later, after Philip has followed Jesus, he finds Nathanael and tells him the good news about Jesus. How does Philip describe Jesus? (He is the one Moses and the prophets wrote about, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.)
- Nathanael is not sure he can believe what Philip is telling him. What does Philip invite Nathanael to do? (Come and see)

BE the Story: *How has the faith practice “invite” been part of my Story, my faith journey?*

Activity:

As a family, play a special version of “I Spy with my Little Eye”:

1. Look around the room and find an object that you have seen, touched, maybe even heard, smelled, or tasted.
2. Describe the item from your experiences with it. See if the other person can guess what you are describing.
3. After they have had a chance to guess, invite them to “come and see” the object up close. Bring them to the object and give them an opportunity to see it up close, touch it, maybe even hear, smell, or taste it.
4. Let them describe the object to you in their own words from their experience.

Connect:

- Which did you enjoy more, being the one to pick and describe the object or being the one to try to guess the object?
- Did you enjoy telling someone about an object or bringing them to the object more?
- When the other player got to “come and see” the object and describe it in their own words from their own experience, was their description similar to the first description? Did the descriptions vary in any way? Did you learn anything different about the object from the second description?
- Was it better to just hear about the object or to get to experience the object?

Reflect: We are to be like Jesus. As disciples, like Philip, we are to look for opportunities to invite others to “come and see” the good news of Jesus.

- Who has “spotted” Jesus and shared the good news with you in your life? How has Jesus been described to you?
- Who has invited you into an experience that helped you see Jesus or experience Jesus at work in the world? Share a time you were invited to “Come and See” the good news of Jesus.

TELL the Story: *How can I share this faith practice “invite” so it can be part of my neighbor’s story?*

In our story from the Bible, there are two parts to inviting:

First Philip is able to tell the good news he has experienced. Before Philip invites Nathanael to “come and see” Jesus, he shares who he thinks Jesus is and how he believes Jesus is at work in the world.

Secondly, Philip is able to invite the other to “come and see,” to be part of the experience.

We are called to share our story. To tell in words who we think Jesus is and how we believe Jesus is at work in the world. We are then called to invite others to experience Jesus and God at work in the world for themselves.

Life Practice:

Part 1: Tell the Good News

- Take a moment and think of a word or phrase (or draw a picture) that describes Jesus. Write that word(s)/picture on a notecard.
- Give everyone in your family time to share what is on their notecard.

Part 2: Invite others to “Come and See”

- Next, think about a way you have come to know what you wrote about Jesus. Maybe you wrote “servant” and you experienced Jesus “serving” while you were serving another at the Food Shelf. Maybe you wrote “son of God” and you learned that Jesus is the son of God in Sunday School.
- As a family, choose one of the experiences you have shared and invite someone into this experience of Jesus. Invite them to “come and see” through serving, Sunday School, etc.
- Think back to the game: after sharing the experience with someone, take time to listen to their experience. What can you learn about Jesus through the other’s experience?

Pray Together: Dear God, Thank you for inviting us into your love and work in the world by sending your son Jesus. Help us to invite others.

Blessing Each Other:

(While holding your hands above the other’s outstretched, palm up hands)

May Christ “come” into your life anew

(While touching the sides of the other’s others eyes)

And may you “see” opportunities for inviting others to share in the good news of God’s presence.