

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:
Love Like Jesus!
March Focus: Pray

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for March is “*Pray.*” Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the video teaser for “*Pray,*” which can be found on the Discipleship Challenge website at www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship. The teaser videos are meant as 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, 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 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!

For more information and resources on the Discipleship Challenge:

www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship

March 2013

Love Like Jesus: PRAY!

STARTERS TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING: *(some of the following is taken and adapted from information on NEMN Practice Discipleship Learning Curriculum)*

*“Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.”
Luke 18:1*

*The parable of the widow and the judge is not printed here but can be found in Luke 18:2-8

- **What is prayer?**
- **How often do you pray? Do you have a favorite time or place?**
- **How do you imagine God? Does the image you have of God influence how you pray?**

WADING INTO DEEPER WATERS:

“For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; That I know very well.”

Psalm 139:13-14

“There are times in a person’s life when, regardless of the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees in prayer.” –Victor Hugo

- **Are your prayers mostly silent or spoken? Public or private?**
- **When you pray, how much time is given to “listen” as well as speak? What do you expect to hear? (Guidance? Hope? Reproach? Comfort? Peace?)**
- **If we have been created to be in relationship with God, why is it so difficult sometimes to pray?**
- **How does prayer affect all the other aspects of your life of faith?**
- **What do you pray for? Whom do you pray for?**