

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:
Love Like Jesus!
March 2014 Focus: PRAYER

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for March is "*Prayer*." Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the video teaser and Bishop Aitken's video challenge for "*Prayer*," 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 **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

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Something to Think About:

According to one report, Americans spend an average of 3+ hours a day communicating on social media.

- **What types of social media do you use?**
- **How do these tools help you communicate with friends and family?**
- **How do they keep you from communicating with friends and family?**
- **How deeply do you get to know other people through social media?**
- **How much time do you spend connecting with friends and family in person rather than through social media?**

Wading Into Deeper Waters:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- **How often do you pray?**
- **What do you find yourself praying for most often?**
- **How have your prayers changed over the course of your life?**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. - Romans 8:26

- **When do you find prayer difficult? When do you find prayer easy?**
- **How often do you find yourself listening rather than speaking as you pray? What do you hear?**
- **What do you expect from prayer?**
- **How has prayer changed you?**