

**NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:**  
**Love Like Jesus!**  
**Family Discussion Guide March 2014: PRAYER!**

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for March is “*Prayer*.” 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](http://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](http://www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship)**

# **Love Like Jesus: PRAYER!**

## **Family Discussion Guide March 2014**

### **Something to Think About:**

God desires a relationship with us. Prayer keeps us connected to God. As we talk with God and listen to God, we deepen our relationship. Prayer is not so much about having the right words like a magic formula in order to get God to do our will, but is a practice of being in the presence of God. Our words do not matter so much. Prayer is more of a heart thing. For God sees the heart and knows what we need even before we say it. We are beloved by God and God desires to spend time with us. Prayer is a faith practice that helps us focus our hearts and minds on God.

### **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. Share your favorite time or place to pray.

**READ:** Read together **Romans 8:26-27** and **1 Thessalonians 5:17** and **Philippians 4:6**.

**TALK:** What do these verses tell us about prayer? Is there a right way to pray? Why or why not? What should we pray about? Why would God want us to pray?

**PRAY:** Pray for each other's highs & lows and any other prayer concerns your family may have this week. Allow space at the end of your prayer for silence and listening to God.

**BLESS:** Say a blessing for each person. You can make the sign of the cross on their forehead and say: "(Name), you are a beloved child of God. May God bless you and keep you today and always."

### **Family Discipleship Action Ideas:**

Create a family prayer calendar for the next month. Use your family activities calendar as a guide. On each day of the week choose something to prayer for. You could pray for things happening that day, choose a family member/friend to pray for each day, or a prayer concern (peace, for the poor or hungry, etc.) Add prayer concerns that your congregation is praying for. Take time each day (before bed, at mealtime, in the car, etc.) to pray for the "concern of the day."