



# **NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:**

## **KNOW...BE...TELL the Story!**

### **December 2014 Children's Discussion Guide: SERVE**

#### **KNOW the Story: *How is the faith practice "serve" part of God's Story?***

In Mark 10:45 we are reminded that Jesus set the example for his followers:

*For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

In Romans 12:1, Paul writes:

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

**Say:** *The Bible is full of stories and letters sharing how Jesus served and giving us examples of how we might serve one another in Christ's name through word and deed. In the ELCA we say "God's Work, Our Hands" as a reminder of our call to serve one another.*

Have the children practice "God's Work, Our Hands". You say "God's work", they say "our hands". You say "Our hands", they say "God's work". Or divide them in half and give one section the words "God's work" and the other half the words "Our hands". When you point at their half of the room, have them quickly stand and shout the words they were assigned and then quickly sit back down. Take turns randomly pointing at each group. Start slow, get faster.

**Say:** *We can use our hands, our feet, our eyes, our ears, our mouths, even the stuff we own to serve one another.*

Divide the children into small groups, each with an adult. Give each group a Children's Bible and one of the following stories. Have them read their story and answer the matching questions. Then have them share an overview with the larger group.

The Friends Lower their Friend to Jesus – How did the friends serve? How do they use their hands to serve their friend?

The Good Samaritan – How does the Good Samaritan serve? How does he use his feet to serve the man?

Zacchaeus – How does Jesus serve? How does Jesus use his eyes to serve Zacchaeus?

Mary and Martha – How does Mary serve? How does Mary serve Jesus with her ears?

John the Baptist – How does John serve? How does John use his mouth to serve Jesus?

The Feeding of the 5,000 – How does the young boy serve? How does he serve with the “stuff” he has?

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

Write the words: *hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, stuff* on small cards. Make enough cards for each child. Put the cards in a bowl and invite each child to choose a card. Invite children with matching cards to gather into new small groups.

Give each small group a large piece of paper. In the center of the paper have them write the word they drew in big letters (ex: hands, feet, stuff, etc.). Then have them brainstorm ways they can serve others using the word they drew. For example: if they drew “mouth” have them write or draw pictures of ways they can use their mouth to serve others. Some examples might be: say “hello”, smile, help another by explaining school homework, read a younger child a book, etc.

Have the small groups share the ideas they brainstormed with the larger group. As groups share, take the posters and put all the large papers up on the walls around the room.

After all the small groups have shared some of their ideas, go back to the phrase “God’s work, our hands”. You say “God’s work” and have each small group say their “our (their assigned word)” for example. You say “God’s work”, the first small group says “our feet”. Reinforce that we can serve with all our being and our belongings.

#### **Have the small groups talk:**

Share a time someone served you with their hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, or stuff they owned.

Tell about how you have served someone with your hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, or your own stuff.

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

Invite the children to think about which of the ways (with their hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, or stuff) they would like to serve today. On the count of three, have them point to the poster representing the way they would like to serve. Then, have them move underneath the poster they selected. Give them time to think about a way they will go and serve as a group within the community in the building at that time. For example, how might they use their hands to serve the coffee hour group or the people entering for worship. They could pour drinks or open the door as people come into church. Give them a time to go and serve, telling them when they are expected to return to large group. *(Be sure to have an adult go with to supervise.)* Alternatively you could have them plan a different setting at a later date.

End your time back together.

**Pray:**

Thank you God for the hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, and stuff to serve others. Amen.

**Bless:**

Guide our hands *(touch hands)*,

move our feet *(put your toes together)*,

open our eyes and ears *(stare at each other as you shout these words)*,

bless the words that come from our mouths *(draw a cross over your lips)*,

and use our stuff *(through your arms open and look around you)*

to share your love with others. Amen.