

# **NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:**

# **Love Like Jesus!**

## ***November Focus: SERVE***

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for December is “*Serve*.” Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the video teaser for “*Serve*,” which can be found on the Discipleship Challenge website at [www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship](http://www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship). The teaser videos are meant as humorous 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 (*YES – discuss with your spouse, children, parents what it means as a disciple of Jesus to serve!*), 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 his children... as his disciples!

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](http://www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship)**

# **Love Like Jesus: SERVE!**

## **Discussion Guide: December 2012**

**STARTERS TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING** 😊: *(some of the following is adapted from information on NE MN Synod Practice Discipleship Learning Curriculum)*

***“God loves the world through you and me.”*** Mother Theresa

As disciples, we have no other choice than to love Jesus by loving others! In Jesus’ name we are called to SERVE others both inside and outside our church home.

- **What types of service are you actively engaged in through your congregation’s ministries?**
- **What types of service are you actively engaged in outside of your congregation?**
- **Who benefits from your various types of service? What benefits do you receive? Can you describe a time when you felt that you received more than you had given?**

### **WADING INTO DEEPER WATERS:**

*“Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”* 1Peter 4:8-11

- **As we busy ourselves with Advent and Christmas, is intentional service to others part of your preparations? How?**
- **Brainstorm as a group or as a family how you might intentionally SERVE others during the season.**

*“And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”* Matthew 25:40

Our service often leads us into the much larger conversations about justice and dignity. As we SERVE, as we “Love like Jesus”...

- **What issues of justice have called you into your activities of service?**
- **How do your acts of service impact the dignity of those whom you serve?**