

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:
Love Like Jesus!
Family Discussion Guide December 2013: SERVE!

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for December is “*Serve*.” 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). 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

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Something to Think About:

You may have heard words similar to these at the close of a worship time in your church: “Go in peace and serve the Lord.” Why are we sent out with these words? Perhaps it is because Jesus has called us to be servants, people who wash feet and feed the hungry. We are disciples commanded to live as people who love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. God gathers us each week to worship and be reminded of the people we have been created to be. We are people who are deeply loved, and who are called to bear the love of Christ to the whole world, a love that is best shown through being servants to others.

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.

READ: Read together **Matthew 25:34-40**.

TALK: What is Jesus trying to tell us? What is God’s Kingdom like? How do you think serving others also serves Jesus? How does serving others also mean working for justice in the world?

PRAY: Pray for each other’s highs & lows, and pray for opportunities for your family to love and serve others in Jesus’ name.

BLESS: Say a blessing for each person. You can make the sign of the cross on their forehead and say: “(Name), may God who is rich in mercy and love bless you always so that you may be a blessing to others.”

Family Discipleship Action Idea:

Put Jesus’ words in Matthew 25 into action. Volunteer to help serve a meal at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen as a family. Make some holiday treats and bring them to a nursing home or prison. Ask your pastor for a list of names of people from your congregation who are ill or homebound and go visit them as a family (maybe even bring communion to them). Help collect donations for or volunteer at a clothing closet for those in need (or maybe even create one if your community does not have one.) Be creative and serve like Jesus.