

# Bus Meeting Resource 1

NE MN Synod Journey 2018

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESOURCE:

This resource is designed to assist Bus Captains and their team of Adult Leaders in leading a gathering of the youth and adults from their assigned Synod Journey Bus Group. Bus Groups are encouraged to meet twice prior to the Journey. The first meeting is focused on getting to know one another as congregations and individuals.

## SETTING UP YOUR SPACE:

We encourage Bus Groups to use the format of the Synod Journey “Story Kits” as an outline for their meeting time together. Set up a “Story Kit” altar area, centrally in your meeting space.



## GATHERING:

Put out nametags and a sign-in list.

Provide activities and games to do while people are arriving.

You may choose to use the “People Scrabble” Activity provided at the end of this resource. (Other examples: “Get to know you” sheets, board games, coloring sheets)

Play additional Ice Breaker Games

(Some suggestions: “Never Have I Ever”... and “Ninja”)

You may add additional activities here or at the end of the resource activities.

## INTRODUCTIONS:

Gather the whole Bus Group into a large circle around your Story Kit altar space.

Do Introductions:

Start the introductions by introducing yourself as the bus captain. Go around the circle having everyone introduce themselves including: name, grade, church and city, and a group you are a part of. Examples: sports team (ex: dance or hockey), community group (ex: community drama or Animal Allies), music group (choir or orchestra), school club (yearbook or art) or interest group (Pokemon or Quilting), etc.

## **THE TILES:**

Leader: **We gather together as God’s people, intentionally seeking a word from God, believing that God’s word has the power to change us. Use the letter tiles to spell out the word “GROUP”. (You may choose to use bigger sheets of paper to represent the letter tiles). Today we celebrate that God has called us together as a bus group and we look forward to all that lies ahead.**

## **LIGHT THE CANDLE**

Leader: **We light the candle to remind us of God’s presence with our group as we prepare in the months ahead and as we travel on the Journey together.**

## **ENCOUNTER THE WORD**

*(If you are a large group you may choose to break into small groups)*

Using the Story Kit “The Word” book, read the story of Phillip and the Eunuch. You may choose to have youth play different roles and act it out as it is being read.

Leader: **Phillip and this Ethiopian were coming from different places. They were two incredibly different people from completely different backgrounds. However, not until they come together does this story evolve. Both Philip and the Eunuch experience God through their time together.**

*Pass out “road” sheets. Have each participant (youth and adult) fill out their roads.*

***What roads have you traveled to get here?***

***What big (or small) moments in your life have helped to bring you to where you are today?***

*Fill in the roads with a few (or many) paths that have brought you to the place you are at right now.*

*Once all roads have been filled out, create one road all together with these roads. The roads will all line up together to show how we all have come together to meet on one journey together.*

## **THE FLIP FLOP: SHARING HOLY GROUND MOMENTS**

Leader: **It’s important to remember that we all come from different paths and have traveled along different roads to get here. Our experiences have all been incredibly different, but we have been led here to Journey together. We hope to encounter God in our time together.**

*Pass around the flip flop. Share: “Where or how are you hoping to encounter God on the Journey?” Examples: through new friendships, working at service sites, exploring the Bible stories, hearing the speakers, through the worships, etc.*

## **THE QUESTION MARK**

*Pass around the question mark. Ask, “Share a question you have about the Synod Journey or the months to come.” After all questions have been asked, address any questions you feel need to be addressed, perhaps questions about specific Journey concerns, etc. Encourage adult leaders from each congregation to address other questions as needed.*

## **WATER BOTTLE BLESSING**

*At the end of your time together, do a blessing. Pass around the water bottle filled with water, and have ALL participants bless the person next to them. Saying:*

*“God walks this road with you” or another blessing as you see fit.*

## **PRAYER**

Pray a “popcorn” prayer, inviting youth and adults to “pop” in at any time with a prayer of their own. Choose someone to open the prayer, and another person to close the prayer. Allow for silence, giving youth a chance to contemplate and jump in.