The 2014-2015 NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge

Dig deep together on a faith journey to...

KNOW the Story

BE the Story

TELL the Story

...of Christ's love in the world.

January: STUDY

All of us are living a story. Together we are living in the middle of God's story – for us, and for our neighbor. Faith practices help us on our faith journey to KNOW God's Story for our lives and the world…to BE God's story of love and reconciliation in the world…and to TELL God's Story so the world can know they are part of God's Story.

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod Discipleship Challenge focuses on the faith practices of *Give, Invite, Serve, Study, Worship, Prayer, and Encourage.* There are many more, and we hope you explore others on your journey as well!

The faith practice focus for the month of January is *STUDY*. Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the "STUDY" video teaser and Bishop Aitken's video challenge, which can be found on the Discipleship Challenge website at www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship. The teaser and challenge videos are meant as conversation starters…the real learning and growth takes place in your discussions that follow the videos!

You are encouraged to use these questions in your homes, during coffee hour, at ministry meetings, in youth group - wherever you have the opportunity to dwell on and discuss what it means for us as individuals and as a family of faith **to KNOW the Story, BE the Story, and TELL the Story of Christ's love in the world!** 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 and to add your own. 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 God's children… as disciples, following Jesus in our daily life!

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and for your willingness to grow in your discipleship to Christ our Lord!

www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge: KNOW…BE…TELL the Story! January 2015: STUDY

My Story

- What are some things you are good at doing? Singing, sports, writing, a musical instrument, public speaking, knitting… the list is endless. Take some time to think about what you're good at and name these things. Don't be shy! We all have talents!
- Were you always good at these talents? Were you always as good as you are today? What things did you have to do to become proficient at these things and what do you do to keep up your skill level?

KNOW the Story

- Why do you think studying scripture is important in our life as a part of God's story for us and for the world?
- In what ways do you think the regular study of the Bible helps to shape who you are and how you engage the world around you?

BE the Story

- Read John 1:1-9. Jesus is the Word. What do you think it says about God that he comes to us as a Word: spoken, written, heard, incarnate Word?
- In what ways do you see yourself growing as you become more active in your study of the word?
- What are some ways in which we can study the Bible? Personally, what ways do you find most helpful? Least helpful? Why?

Tell the Story

- January seems to be the month of making resolutions for the new year, why not resolve to spend more time in studying the Bible? What opportunities are there at your church to study the Bible?
- If you're already involved in some sort of Bible study, how about inviting someone you know who isn't to go with you? Are there any Bible studies you'd like to participate in that your church doesn't offer? What can you do to make those studies happen?