

**NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:**  
**Love Like Jesus!**  
***January Focus: STUDY***

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for January 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, 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: STUDY!

## Discussion Guide: January 2012

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

As disciples, we are called to regular study of God's word. It is through reading and study that the scriptures, God's word, become active and informative in our lives.

- **Think of all the different "new" things you do in and around the house** *(even if you're not that handy, or that good of a chef, we all try something!)*. **Where do you look for help? Why do you look for help?**
- **What's the first thing that comes to mind when you see a bible?**
- **In what ways do you currently read/hear God's word?** (In worship? Home devotions? Small group? Bible study with others?) **How does this help you in your faith?**
- **What is your favorite bible verse? Why?**

### WADING INTO DEEPER WATERS:

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* Psalm 119:105

*"The bible is a great and powerful tree. Each word is a mighty branch. Each of these branches I have shaken and the shaking of them has never disappointed me."* Martin Luther

- **What passages or books of the bible trouble you the most? Why do you think that is?**
- **At what times do you find the study of scripture most beneficial?**

Here's a study exercise to do together at tables during coffee hour, at home with your family, or even by yourself! Try it, you just might like it 😊

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, to bring good news to the poor."* Luke 4:18

Using the above verse:

1. Read it aloud (pause for a few moments of reflection)
  2. Read it silently (pause for a few moments of reflection)
  3. Use the verse in a personal prayer
  4. Discuss...
- **Does the scripture speak to you differently using these different techniques? How so. Which do you prefer?**
  - **It's the resolution time of year. What resolution would you like to make in regards to your study of scripture?**