

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:
Love Like Jesus!
January 2014 Focus: STUDY

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for January is “*Study.*” Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the video teaser and Bishop Aitken’s video challenge for “*Study,*” 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 **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 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!

For more information and resources on the Discipleship Challenge:

www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship

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Something to think about:

- Have you made any resolutions for the new year? What are they?
- Maybe you haven't made any resolutions, but what are some things you would like to change or do in the next year?
- Where do you see God in either one of the above questions? Is God or your faith life there? Why do you think that is (or isn't) the case?

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

- What kind of things in your life do you feel the need to "study up" for in order to accomplish? (could be work, school, a home improvement project, a new diet/fitness routine) List them. What are the benefits of "studying up?"
- How do you think NOT studying up for any of the above would affect the outcome? Any stories to share about how that worked out for you?
- Do you think it's important to "study up" when it comes to your faith life? Why or why not.
- What benefits are there to studying scripture?
- What kinds of things do you do now to increase your understanding of the faith? For instance, do you read the bible? Do you have daily devotions? Do you participate in studies, classes, teaching opportunities at church or elsewhere?
- Do you have a favorite verse(s) from scripture? Why do they speak to you in such a meaningful way?
- Do you think God continues to speak to you through the pages of scripture? Why or why not.
- Think of one question to ask your pastors about as it relates to the bible. Now, ask them 😊