

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge: Love Like Jesus!

Family Discussion Guide January 2014: STUDY!

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for January is “*Study*.” 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

Love Like Jesus: STUDY!

Family Discussion Guide January 2014

Something to Think About:

Part of being a disciple is to spend time studying the bible to learn more about the stories of God's people and to listen to the words of Jesus. The bible is a whole library of books and letters that speak to us from different contexts and cultures. We must not only consider the written words but also the places and time periods they come from when we study the bible today. Having a study bible that helps to explain the context of the words can help guide your reading. There are many ways to approach reading the bible, but most important is just to dive in. Find a book or story in the bible that is interesting to you and start there.

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. Share a favorite bible verse or story from the bible.

READ: Read together **John 8:31-38**.

TALK: What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us? How do you think studying God's word helps us as disciples? What does God's word do for us? How can we share what we hear as we study the bible?

PRAY: Pray for each other's highs & lows, and pray for encouragement to study the bible each day and hear God's word for your family.

BLESS: Say a blessing for each person. You can make the sign of the cross on their forehead and say: "(Name), may the word of God dwell in you and set you free to share the good news."

Family Discipleship Action Idea:

As a family, encourage one another to read the bible daily. Your family could set a time to read together or individually, then keep track of how many minutes you read, or each chapter or book you read on a chart or calendar. Try to take time to share what you are reading with each other during a check-in time each week. At the end of the month, you could celebrate reading goals with a special treat or reward. You could even encourage other families or friends to join you in this discipleship challenge! Choose a book of the bible or make a reading plan and work together to grow in faith through studying the bible!