



# **NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:**

## **KNOW...BE...TELL the Story!**

### **January 2015 Family Discussion Guide: STUDY**

#### **KNOW the Story: *How is the faith practice “study” part of God’s Story?***

Read Luke 2:41-52 as a family:

*<sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.*

Consider: What is Jesus doing in this story?

At a young age Jesus is found in the temple listening and learning about the Word of God. No matter what our age we are called to “study” the word of God – to listen, to ask questions, and to consider how we understand God’s word.

#### **BE the Story: *How has the faith practice “study” been part of my Story, my faith journey?***

Share your answers:

What do you think of when you hear the word “study”?  
How does the word “study” make you feel? Excited? Bored?

Activity:

Give each reader the word “STUDY” and see how many words they can make from the letters in study in one minute. Have non-readers become cheerleaders.

Share the words you made.

Two of the words we can make from the word study are “dusty” and “duty”. Too often when we hear the word “study” we think of *dusty* old books that we must read and learn from out of *duty*. We hear “study” and think “boring”.

“Study”, as an act of discipleship, should not be dreaded and boring. We are called to “study” the “alive and active” Word of God.

Read Hebrews 4:12-

*For the word of God is alive and active.*

Study Activity:

Gather around a table with a Children’s Bible and the cut out “Word Alive” cards. Lay the six cards mixed up and upside down at the center of the table. You will also need playdoh or clay, paper and pencils or markers,

Have the one person select a story from the Children’s Bible to “study”, or simply let the Bible fall open and see where it lands. Decide if you will play in teams or independently.

Each player or team then draws a “Word Alive” card. Read the story and give each team 5-10 minutes to complete the task listed on their card.

Make it – make a playdoh representation of what you hear in the text. *(You may also substitute legos, or other building supplies for this card.)*

Sing it – write a minimum of a four line “chorus” about the story you have read to sing to the group.

Draw it – draw a picture illustrating what you heard from the text.

Quiz it – write 5-10 trivia questions about the story to ask your family.

Act it – prepare to physically act out the story you have read without using words.

Free pick – you choose which of the cards you will do.

When time has expired go around the group and share what you have done. Have fun “studying” God’s word.

After everyone has shared, think of Jesus in the temple and discuss:

Jesus Listened: What did you hear happening in this text? What did you “hear” through the creations, the drawings, the singing, the quizzes, and the acting?

Jesus Asked Questions: What questions do you have after working with this text? What questions did you have as you were making or seeing other’s creation, drawing, song, quiz, or acting?

Jesus Considered What God's Word Meant for His Life: Consider what you think this text has to say to you and your family. How can your creation, drawing, song, quiz, acting remind you of God's love and God's call for you and your family this week?

Finally share –

Do you usually think of “studying” God's word as “dusty and a duty” or “alive and active”?

What did you enjoy about “studying” God's word this time?

What are other ways your family can study God's word together, taking time to listen, question, and consider, while remembering that God's word is alive and active - not “dusty and a duty”?

***TELL the Story: How can I share this faith practice “study” so it can be part of my neighbor's story?***

God's word is not meant to be left on the pages of scripture or in a creation from a “Word Alive” game. God's word becomes “alive and active” in the living out of each of our days.

Discuss:

How will what you “studied” effect how you interact with your neighbors this week?  
How will God's word be “alive and active” through you?

Consider inviting someone else over to play “Word Alive” or create another opportunity to “listen, question, and consider” the Word of God with others.

Prayer and Blessings:

*For this blessing, begin by all holding onto a closed Bible, being as “lifeless” as possible.*

Pray: Holy God, sometimes we leave your Word to collect dust on our shelves. We see studying your Word as a boring duty. Forgive us.

*Fling open the Bible, and lay your hands on the open pages.*

Pray: Open us up and fill us with a new excitement for your Word.

*Keeping your hand on the Bible, wiggle about.*

Pray: May your Word be alive and active in and through us. Amen.