

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge:
Love Like Jesus!

Children's Discussion Guide February 2014: WORSHIP!

The NE MN Synod faith practice focus for February is "*Worship.*" You are encouraged to use this discussion guide with younger children in your home or as part of a Sunday school class or church children's event. As a family you might do this after a meal, for nightly devotions, 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.

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 help younger children grow in their discipleship to Christ our Lord!

For more information and resources on the Discipleship Challenge:

www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship

Love Like Jesus: WORSHIP!
Children's Discussion Guide February 2014

Worship can be a wonderful opportunity for children to encounter God in special and holy ways. Worship can also be a very frustrating and confusing experience for children. Our job as parents and adults is to help our children participate in worship in ways that are meaningful and joyful for them. Children worship differently than adults. They process the experience through their unique lenses and perspectives. They wiggle and chatter. They question and have amazing and fresh insights on what is going on around them. Sometimes adults find it

distracting to worship with ones such as these, but we must embrace the gift that children are for our worship together. Jesus welcomed ones such as these. They show us the Kingdom of God! What does that mean for how you worship with children? Try and put yourselves in their shoes and engage that energy and curiosity in how you do worship together.

Introduction: Ask the children about a time when they made a discovery or found something they thought was really awesome. How did they react? Talk about how worship is our response to God who is the greatest, most awesome part of our life. Each week we celebrate the good news of God's love for us!

Story/Bible Reading: Read **Psalm 100**. For older children, have them look up this psalm and take turns reading it a verse at a time.

Ask: *What are some different ways we can worship God?* (sing songs, prayers, make music, say thank you, hear stories, etc.) **Ask:** *What is your favorite part of worship?*

Craft/Activity Suggestions:

Psalm 100 Musical Creations: Make different instruments to make musical worship. Tambourines (jingle bells attaches to paper plates), shakers (plastic eggs filled with rice), kazoos (paper tubes with wax paper attached to the end with a rubber band), or any other instruments you can think of. Practice a simple hymn or song they sing frequently (i.e. Jesus Loves Me). You could even share your musical worship with the rest of the congregation in worship.

Learn about a part of worship (Gathering, Kyrie, Confession & Forgiveness, Offering, Prayers of the People, Sharing the Peace, etc). Have the children help lead this part in worship and share what they learned. For older children, you could have each child work on exploring a different part of worship and share what they learn with the rest of the class or with the congregation in a "science fair-like" display before worship. Or they could work together to plan a worship service for their congregation.

Closing Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us all the time. Help us to praise you in worship and in our lives every day. Amen.