



## “Dog Eating Chicken: Translating Faith”

This companion study guide and related resources connects the seven faith practices of *Pray, Study, Worship, Invite, Encourage, Serve and Give* to the Practice Discipleship webinar session, “Dog Eating Chicken: Translating Faith.” To view the original webinar and for more information on Practice Discipleship, visit [www.practicediscipleship.org](http://www.practicediscipleship.org).

### For group discussion:

#### Pray

Opening prayer:

Lord, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight. Teach us to speak in ways that are meaningful to others; teach us to listen in ways that are honoring to you. Amen.

Invite members of your group to talk about “memorized” prayers they learned. “Come Lord Jesus,” “The Lord’s Prayer,” “Now I lay me down to sleep?” Others? Discuss:

- What is the first prayer you remember memorizing or learning?
- When did you learn to pray with “your own” words?
- What are the advantages to memorized prayers? Disadvantages?

Consider praying a prayer that is familiar to your group or having one person teach the others a prayer that isn’t as familiar. Alternatively, pick a favorite psalm or one from the lectionary to read as prayer.

#### Study

Read Matthew 16: 13-20.

- What word does Peter use to name Jesus?
- What are other words for Jesus? Which one is most meaningful to you? Why?

Try reading a different translation of this passage.

- What differences do you notice from one translation to another?
- Does one speak to you more than another (it’s ok if it doesn’t)?

## Worship

This video presents a range of worship music and discussion questions. Complete the discussion questions presented in the video and consider the ones below

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69mCX7T2sB0>

- Musical styles aside, how are these songs different?
- With respect to the language, what music speaks to you? Why?
- Are there words that are or aren't appropriate for worship? Why or why not?
- Where is the line between speaking in a way that is meaningful to someone versus speaking in a way that is offensive?

## Invite

See this website for examples of letters of invitation for a particular church. How is the language similar/different? Choose an event within your ministry setting (worship? service project? special event?) and write invitations that would speak to different audiences.

<http://www.reference.com/motif/society/sample-of-church-invitation-letters>

*(Click on "Read More" in the answer portion to get to the examples.)*

## Encourage

Exhortation is a spiritual gift that some translate as "encouragement." Take the ELCA Spiritual Gifts inventory. <https://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Christian-Education/Program-Planners/2005/SpiritualGifts/Finding-Your-Spiritual-Gifts.aspx>

- Are there encouragers in your group?
- What are ways that they encourage?
- What other gifts are present within your group?

Invite participants to explain in their own words what each of these gifts means to each other, then invite them to explain them to a different audience (a non-Christian, a preschooler, etc.)

## Serve

- What does "serve" mean to you?
- What do you think of with the word "serve"?

Grab a dictionary or thesaurus, or see the definition here from Merriam Webster.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus/serve>

- How is this definition different from/similar to your definition(s)?
- What could service, in any of its definitions, look like in your setting?

## **Give**

- What are your favorite organizations to give to? Why? Look at their websites or promotional materials.
  - What kind of language are they using?
  - Who do you think they are targeting?
  - Are there organizations that you think are specifically targeting youth or young adults? How do you know?
- Talk about your experiences with giving.
- Is there language/action that has turned you away from giving to a certain person/group?

## **Closing prayer**

God of many languages, thank you for this time to learn from each other and to be strengthened by this community. We pray that you would help and guide us as we discern how to apply what we have gained from our time together to serve you and the world around us. We pray that you would provide us with the strength and resources to act on this knowledge and to help us to live into your grace, mercy, and abundant love. Amen.

## Related Resources for congregations

### Pray

Mount Moriah Lutheran Church in North Carolina has compiled a website with prayers that are common within the Lutheran faith.

[http://www.lutheransonline.com/servlet/lo\\_ProcServ/dbpage=page&mode=display&gid=01041013600974896071013636&pg=20051478638722359701111555](http://www.lutheransonline.com/servlet/lo_ProcServ/dbpage=page&mode=display&gid=01041013600974896071013636&pg=20051478638722359701111555)

*The Lutheran Book of Prayer* is a resource with prayers for many occasions.

<http://www.amazon.com/Lutheran-Book-Prayer-J-Acker/dp/0758608594>

Luther wrote the *Small Catechism* in language that was meaningful to people of his time, but that still resonates for us today. Here are prayers from the *Small Catechism*:

<http://www.cph.org/t-topic-catechism-dailyprayers.aspx>. This is also found on page 1160 of the *ELW*.

The *ELW* has a collection of prayers from pages 64-87.

### Study

Anne Lamott is a writer known for approachable language. Her book *Help, Thanks, Wow: Three Essential Prayers* focuses on what she believes are at the core of our prayers.

[http://www.amazon.com/Help-Thanks-Wow-Essential-Prayers/dp/1594631298/ref=tmm\\_hrd\\_title\\_0](http://www.amazon.com/Help-Thanks-Wow-Essential-Prayers/dp/1594631298/ref=tmm_hrd_title_0)

Rev. Dr. David Lose, professor at Luther Seminary, blogs at *In the Meantime*. One of his posts focuses specifically on prayer and what it means for us. Comments in the discussion provide further insights.

<http://www.davidlose.net/2013/02/what-is-prayer/>

A list of Bible verses specifically on prayer. Read them in various Bible translations to discover which one speaks to you—and or your youth—most vividly.

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/prayer-bible-verses/>

### Worship

A list of resources for worshipping with the Psalms, using several translations and musical interpretations.

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/showcase-psalms-in-worship/>

An article on Biblical guidance for worship, including background information on worship from different Christian traditions. Has a thorough bibliography.

[http://roadmapsforworship.com/?page\\_id=535](http://roadmapsforworship.com/?page_id=535)

## Invite

Free templates for church invitations: <http://sitevelocitytest.com/free/free-church-invitation-templates.html>

Websites can be one way of being inviting and welcoming to newcomers. Here are examples of church websites that have been marked as good examples based on the criteria of technique and visual appeal: <http://www.visualswirl.com/inspiration/best-church-website-designs-2011/>

## Encourage

A blog post on Biblical connections to encouragement.

<http://www.projectinspired.com/bible-study-what-does-encouragement-really-mean/>

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## Serve

Article on ways that teenagers are making a difference with their service:

<https://www.teenlife.com/pages/volunteer/>

List of 100 ways to serve: <http://learnthis.ca/2010/02/100-ways-to-serve-others/>

Twenty ways that teenagers can help others: <http://www.beliefnet.com/Love-Family/Charity-Service/2001/04/Twenty-Ways-For-Teens-To-Help-Others-By-Volunteering.aspx>

## Give

Organizations the ELCA supports for giving: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Donate-Now.aspx>

Giving does not always have to be financial. Here are links to crafts designed to encourage. <http://pinterest.com/wcuster/encouragement-ideas/>

*The Practice Discipleship Initiative is a ministry of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network ([www.elcaymnet.org](http://www.elcaymnet.org)), in partnership with the ELCA, ELCA Seminaries and ELCA Colleges. The purpose of Practice Discipleship is to foster faithful, thoughtful and intentional leaders in congregations who follow Jesus in their daily lives. For more information, visit [www.practicediscipleship.org](http://www.practicediscipleship.org).*