

GRACE IN ACTION

Discussion Guide: Practice 3

Faith Formation, Evangelism, and Passing on the Faith

What is the good news that you hear when you read stories about Jesus' life and ministry in the Gospels? Who are some of the people in your life who have shared that good news with you and shown you what it is like? How do you try to spread the good news in your daily life?

What are some of the community ministries that you've participated in with your congregation (e.g. collecting food, cleaning up litter in the neighborhood, building or repairing houses, etc.)? Why do you spend time serving in these ways? How does it make you feel when you serve your community?

Read some of the stories of how Jesus interacts with people in the Gospel of John (e.g. John 3, John 4, John 9, John 11, etc.). In John's stories about Jesus' life, "belief" is about having a real relationship with Jesus. What might we learn from the way that Jesus connects with people? How can we build similar relationships with our own neighbors? How can we tend to the needs of our communities in the same kinds of ways that Jesus does?

Do you have any young people in your life? What are some of their biggest issues that they face in their lives? What are some of the most important things that we should do to support children as they grow up? How can we be sure that children and youth feel comfortable and engaged in our congregations?

Follow-up Actions

1. **Walk around your neighborhood or somewhere close by.** Take note of the people you see, the buildings you pass, the institutions that are easily accessible. What kinds of needs seem most prevalent in your own community? How can your church address those needs directly?
2. **Check out the nearest camp.** Most camps have programs for all ages - not only summer camps for children and youth. See if there is something that interests you. Being at camp is one of the best ways to deepen your faith. It may be nostalgic, it may allow for you to "get away" enough to explore your faith in new ways, and it may connect you to folks with different faith perspectives.

Resources

SC Synod resources for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry: <https://scsynod.com/youth/>

ELCA camps in the Southeast: <https://novusway.org/>

Luther's Small Catechism - Flip through this resource for a basic foundation of the Lutheran Faith for all ages.