



PRACTICE DISCIPLESHIP 2015 “STORY”

We are living in the middle of God’s story. God’s story includes all of creation and the specific life of Jesus. Within that story we live and tell our life stories—the places we live, the gifts of our neighbors, what it means to serve, and what matters most in growing up and into discipleship. We live by stories. They tell us where we came from, help us talk about challenges, and inspire us to make choices for good. This year’s Practice Discipleship Initiative will concentrate on weaving together God’s story with stories of self, others, and the places into which God calls us.

SESSION 1: LIVING IN STORIES

Colleen Windham-Hughes, California Lutheran University

We live by stories. In the middle of God’s story, which includes all of creation and the life of Jesus, we live and tell our life stories. Learn how living your story as part of God’s story shifts your perspective to search for the good in your neighbor, community, and self.

SESSION 2: STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Julia Fogg, California Lutheran University

Discover God’s story as revealed in Scripture and how that enduring story shapes the unfolding stories of God’s people. Through reading the stories of a God who breaks boundaries and crosses borders to reach people, you are invited to connect with the ministry of Jesus and orient your story to receive, follow, and pursue God’s good work.

SESSION 3: STORY OF PLACE AND DISPLACEMENT

Carol Jacobson, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

How does where you live make a difference for how you live and tell God’s story? Learn how Jesus’s attention to his context(s) and listener(s) shapes how he tells his story and receives theirs, and consider how attention to context and place presents both challenges and opportunities in sharing God’s story with others.

SESSION 4: STORY OF ADOLESCENCE

Dawn Rundman, Sparkhouse, Augsburg Fortress

Who are young people today and what in our cultural narrative impacts how youth hear, interpret, and live out God’s story? Learn about the gifts, energy, and passions youth have for their life of discipleship and how adults can effectively guide and direct their gifts and passions as they live out (and into) their unique stories.

SESSION 5: STORY OF SELF AND OTHER

Mindy Makant, Lenoir-Rhyne University

Making room to hear others' stories is an act of hospitality in which Christ is present. Listening to such stories helps us see beyond what is to what can/could/might be, opening imaginative possibilities and realities beyond the immediately visible and self-evident. Ultimately, our relationships with others can then inform and shape our own story.

SESSION 6: STORY OF SERVICE

Mark Jackson, Trinity Lutheran College

What stories get told through service experiences? Explore biblical stories of service and practices that make room for recognizing and honoring others' stories. When service and mission experiences are thought of as more than projects and trips, service can become a lifelong spiritual practice and way of life.

SESSION 7: STORY OF FAITH COMMUNITY

John Cummings, Meghan Sobocienski, and Elizabeth Flores, Grace in Action

The story of the early church tells of a faith community that shared everything in common – not only worship, but food, work, and all of life. How can the historical church—*ekklesia*—translate to who we are called to be as church today? Stories of Jesus and the early “church” show us how we can be a true community of faith, across racial, socioeconomic and other boundaries that so frequently divide us. Engage in interactive conversation and activities that explore what it means to be a faith community today.