

## Go and...!

Notes from 9/29/2022 Gathering on Zoom – 23 participants

Planning Team: Pastor Judy Anderson, Pastor Jay Berry, Pastor Jill Collicot, Pastor Maristela Freiberg, Pastor Danielle McCleary, Pastor Courtney Smith, and Pastor Dianne Lewis

Theme: Go and Make Disciples

Opening:

-Prayer for all those who are sick or suffering in any way, including all of those that have been affected by or are currently experiencing damage or loss from the hurricanes.

Contextual Tip

-All of us come from different communities with their own unique stories. We encourage you to take what is helpful for you to use and mold the tools we are sharing in a way that can be life-giving to you and your context.

Introduction to the Theme:

Go and Make Disciples... what does this mean?

-Affirmation of Baptism is a reminder to our calling to live among God's faithful people and share the good news of the Gospel with all people.

-Making disciples happens by going and living out our faith in daily life.

-Martin Luther believed that faith is a living and mighty thing!

-75% of kids left the church from ages 18-29 while 25% stayed connected with Christ

-Engaging youth and young adults by way of faith formation inside the home, in the community, and in church

-Sharing 'God Moments' as a family

-Ministry activities that engage all ages

-Having a faith-focused adult in a child's life that is not necessarily a parent/family member

-Being attentive to opportunities that can be created to invite active participation of youth and young adults

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

-Taught, healed, loved, shared, fed, cultivated relationships, remained faithful to God...etc.

-Jesus lived his teachings and embodied the love he brought from our Creator. He invites us to be lifelong learners in what it means to live in the way of Jesus.

Breakout Rooms: What does it mean for you to follow Jesus?

Takeaways from the large group:

-Having patience

-Spending quality time with God

-Remember who you are and whose you are as a child of God

-Let Jesus shine through everything we are doing

"Divine Encounter: Faith Formation from the Wild" by Pastor Brett Ballenger – Prince of Peace, Marlton

-Divine Encounter is a confirmation class that is learner-led, inquiry based exploration of our natural environment to provide encounters for the individual and the group to learn more deeply about the created order while allowing the experience to serve as a springboard to greater knowing (wisdom) of spirituality, faith, stewardship, life and practices of a disciple as we live into the larger life questions of God's presence and action in the world

-Before Divine Encounter, Pastor Brett Ballenger and a team of lay leaders came up with the ministry program known as Discipleship Practice

Discipleship Practice: Intergenerational gathering of adults and children who seek to know how God is encountering us. Discipleship Practice provides intentional work of not only learning spiritual practices but actually practicing them and equipping them with tools on how to engage in these practices outside of their church building.

- Love God, ourselves, our neighbors, creation with heart, mind, and soul
- Know the stories of our faith from our sacred scriptures and from one another
- Jesus' FIFITH: Feed, Include, Forgive, Teach, Heal
- Come to know that life is all about the encounter with the Holy One

Sending Question: How might God be equipping you to be sent on God's mission into the world?