

## Discipleship Series

### ***Going Deeper: A Journey with Jesus***

by Rev. John Herman

***Going Deeper: A Journey with Jesus*** is a discipleship series intended for use by small groups (3-6 persons) and individuals, for people new to the faith as well as those who have grown up in the church. The series is designed to promote daily quiet time dedicated to being in the Word, study, and prayer—spiritual disciplines that promote the work of the Holy Spirit in daily life. The books can be used sequentially or independently.

***Yearning for God*** (Volume 1) begins with the human yearning of the creature to know the Creator, and it progresses through several life-changing encounters of biblical people with Jesus Christ.

***God Comes to Us*** (Volume 2) makes use of the Christian statements of faith (the creeds) to introduce the fullness of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a God who wants to be in relationship with humanity.

***Called to Follow*** (Volume 3) uses the Five Gifts of Discipleship from the Affirmation of Baptism liturgy to describe five significant life commitments for disciples of Jesus. These include to:

live among God's faithful people

hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper

proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed

serve all people, following the example of Jesus

strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2006), 236.

***The Fruit of the Spirit*** (Volume 4) studies the fruit of the Spirit, the qualities—the character of Jesus Christ—that the Spirit desires to produce in the church and within individual disciples.

***The Body of Christ*** (Volume 5) focuses on the biblical images of church to present a picture of what it means to be the church today, living among God's people, and sent out into the world.

These books can be ordered online.

#### **Catechetical Background**

In the early centuries of the Christian Church, people were welcomed into the church and into the journey with Jesus through a time of study and preparation called the catechumenate.

This process of discipleship formation followed four phases:

- Inquiry
- catechumenate
- preparation for baptism
- baptismal living

Today some mainline Christian churches are adopting (and adapting) this catechumenal process as the center of their life and ministry organized around the Great Commission call to baptize and teach.

The *Going Deeper* series offers helpful catechetical material for congregations who are organized around the adult catechumenate process. The entire series provides a faith formation curriculum for individuals and small groups.