

# Forward Together as Equippers Discussion Guide

## Open with Prayer

**Scripture Reading – Luke 10:17-20 – “I have given you authority...”**

## Share These Points on Equipping

“When Jesus gathered his disciples, he equipped them for the work of ministry... We want to do that too,” said Bishop Claire Burkat. (video: <https://youtu.be/QuhUaYDBFuU>)

Equipping is essential in order to address the challenges and opportunities our church and communities experience each day. Given the cultural changes around us, equipping no longer means to provide full, known answers or proven methods. Instead, to equip is to help congregational leaders to understand and address the right questions.

Equipping involves helping church leaders to think like entrepreneurs, ready to take risks and learn from success and failure. Equipping means finding hands-on ways for our leaders and congregations to continually learn from each other. It will involve bringing in national leaders to dialogue with our congregations and finding ways for local teachers sharing their experience with peers. We will develop platforms to efficiently share the best practices that congregations and leaders learn along the way. Equipping also requires supporting our seminarians in order to reduce the debt they will carry out into the parish.

A key part of the vision is to offer congregations an assessment tool that helps leaders learn more about what is going on in their congregation and identify the strengths and passions that can be harnessed for ministry. A pilot group of congregations are already learning from the results of this assessment, and funding from the campaign will help all congregations that want to take part in this process.

Video examples of equipping in our synod:

- Empowering people for ministry [https://youtu.be/VowNN-g\\_WUU](https://youtu.be/VowNN-g_WUU)
- A seminarian on Synod support <https://youtu.be/bwZDGNZ659o>
- What are needs the church can address? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-b4q-luEUE>

Less Debt, More Possibilities. A former seminarian talks about the cost of education debt. <https://youtu.be/AfKQ-Xg63jM>

Yes, We Can! Mission assessment helps a congregation move forward. <https://youtu.be/jzrg-G1swoM>

## Reflection/Discussion Time:

How does the scripture connect with the synod’s campaign vision of equipping as well as your congregation’s vision?

What are ways your congregation is already equipping your disciples?

What does your congregation do well that could be shared with others?

What does your congregation need to learn and experiment with in order to be more effective in your community?

**Notes – Share With the Synod Helpful Discussion Information**