



CURRICULUM SERIES **FORGIVENESS**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2022 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING
boundless
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

Leader Prep

INTRODUCTION

The theme for this curriculum is “boundless: God beyond measure.” Its primary Scripture verses are Ephesians 3:14-21 CEV:

¹⁴I kneel in prayer to the [Lord]. ¹⁵All beings in heaven and on earth receive their life from [God]. ¹⁶God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that [God’s] Spirit will make you become strong followers ¹⁷and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in [God’s] love. ¹⁸I pray that you and all of God’s people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep. ¹⁹I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is. ²⁰⁻²¹I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. [God’s] power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved by us but freely given by God, changes lives and perspectives as people realize that, because of what Christ has done, they are enough, and that they are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news.

Three different sections of the curriculum are available for use. Within the framework of worship, large-group settings and small-group conversations, participants will dwell daily on one of three themes:

- boundless creation.
- boundless forgiveness.
- boundless invitation.

THE SCRIPT

This script is written for four leaders, but please recruit as many as you like. Engaging adults and high school students for several hours requires passion and energy consider recruiting participants who will lead this session in an engaging, high energy, and passionate way. **Please involve youth in these leadership roles!** If possible, leaders should memorize their lines and deliver them as a storyteller would.

We encourage leaders to rehearse the script ahead of your event, memorize their lines and deliver them as a storyteller would. Take the opportunity to practice the script in the space you will use for your event. Leaders may even want to mark up their scripts with stage directions and practice transitions in the space so that they don’t bump into each other and can get used to the setup (where microphones are located, which will be open at what time, etc.).

YOUTH TESTIMONY

The curriculum offers young people a chance to reflect on the daily themes. The script provides more information and instructions on crafting this time. We encourage you to identify these people well in advance so that they might begin formulating their testimony.

VOLUNTEERS

We suggest that you train your volunteers prior to or on the day of the event, assigning them to communion stations during the training. Volunteers needed are:

- Greeters.
- Leadership voices for the script below.
- Musicians.
- Media coordinator.
- Communion distributors (we suggest three per station for every 100 communicants).
- Small-group leaders (we suggest one for every eight participants).

SCHEDULE

The schedule of events is yours to decide, and the script allows space for you to set your own time markers. Following is an example of a one-day schedule:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 9:00 am | Musicians and leadership teams arrive for rehearsal and training. |
| 10:00 am | Space is ready for participants. |
| 10:30 am | Doors open for music and activities. |
| 11:00 am | Leaders welcome participants and introduce themselves. |
| 11:30 am | Leaders introduce daily theme. |
| 12:00 pm | Large group breaks for lunch and breakout groups. |
| 1:30 pm | Participants return to the large-group session. |
| 1:45 pm | Holy Communion. |
| 2:45 pm | Sending: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. |

MUSIC

Live music is encouraged for this event, especially music utilizing the gifts of your young people.

Script

*Team leaders and musicians arrive.
Set up stage, block out stage directions, train worship assistants.
Check sound.
Ready space for participants.*

DOORS OPEN

As groups begin to enter the large-group space, encourage them to sing along with your music. You could also have a few large-group activities ready for this time.

WELCOME

Voice 1: The Lord be with you!
Synod: And also with you!

Voice 1 (louder): The Lord be with you!
Synod: And also with you!

Voice 1 (louder still): The Lord be with you!
Synod: And also with you!

Use this prayer or one of your own.

Voice 1: Let us pray.
Good and gracious God, you made your boundless love known to us in Jesus. Thank you for calling us together in this holy place and time. Bless our day with the power and presence of your Holy Spirit, so that we might all be filled with your presence. And all of God's people say, "Amen."

Synod: Amen!

Voice 1: Hello! I am [name], from [congregation, town]. I am thrilled to be one of several people serving as your hosts today.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We encourage you to create a land acknowledgement based on your location. A good resource for understanding and creating land acknowledgements can be found at <https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>, or consider this sample text from Minneapolis:

"We acknowledge that we stand on the traditional lands of the Dakota people, lands that have been the ancestral home of indigenous and native peoples for generations. This land was taken on July 23rd, 1851 by the US government, part of land cession 289 that included most of the southwestern part of Minnesota. In affirming this land as the homeland of our indigenous neighbors, we recognize the legacies of violence and cultural genocide that occurred alongside the displacement of their

communities, as well as the responsibility we all share to not let these truths be buried any longer. Indigenous people from other Native nations also reside in Minnesota and have made innumerable contributions to this region.”



Why Land Acknowledgements Are Important

The Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin

SONG

INTRODUCTION OF THE DAY

Voice 2: Hey, Everybody. I am [name], from [congregation, town]. So what is this day all about? [Fill in as appropriate for your event.]

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP / SYNOD LEADER

Voice 2: One of the ways we become church together is through the [name] Synod. It is my honor to introduce to you the bishop of our synod, Bishop [name].

BISHOP / SYNOD LEADER:

The bishop gives a greeting that lasts no longer than 5 minutes.

Please emphasize the overall theme — “boundless: God beyond measure” — and the daily theme.

boundless THEME

Voice 3: Hello! I am [name], from [congregation, town]. Today we gather under the theme “boundless: God beyond measure.”

Let’s try our “boundless” litany together. We’ll show you how it’s done, then we’ll all do it together. OK, here we go:

Voice 4: God’s love is . . .

Synod (hand over heart): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God’s creation is . . .

Synod (open arms wide): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God’s forgiveness is . . .

Synod (cross wrists): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God’s invitation is . . .

Synod (uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God’s promise is . . .

Synod: (trace cross on another’s hand or forehead): . . . boundless.

Voice 3: OK, now that we know the actions, let's say it together.

Voice 4: God's love is . . .

Synod (place hand over heart): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God's creation is . . .

Synod (open arms wide): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God's forgiveness is . . .

Synod (cross wrists): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God's invitation is . . .

Synod (uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God's promise is . . .

Synod: (trace cross on another's hand or forehead): . . . boundless.

You may wish to do this a few times over.

Voice 3: We have a boundless God, willing to exceed the borders of our own comfort to show us love. Sometimes we may feel unworthy of that love, but God is constant.

Voice 1: We are bound by so many things — by poverty and pandemic, by social media, by the expectations of our parents and others, by our own sin and self-doubt. Sometimes it can be overwhelming.

Voice 2: But God is bound by none of those things. God reaches out to each of us, surrounding us in a love that is infinite and immeasurable.

Voice 3: God's boundless love for us exceeds anything we could possibly dream or imagine. Just when we think we have God figured out, God is revealed to be so much more.

Voice 4: Just when we think we have God's love figured out, God loves us more.

Voice 1: Just when we think we have seen God's creation, God creates more.

Voice 2: Just when we think we have figured out God's forgiveness, God forgives us more.

Voice 3: Just when we think we have heard God's invitation, God invites us to more.

Voice 4: Just when we believe in God's promises, God promises us more.

Voice 1: God's love is more wonderful than we could ever experience or imagine. We see God's love working in each of us as we gather in this space, experiencing the boundless number of lives changed.

Voice 2: God's boundless power working in each of us can do far more than we could dare ask or imagine. Imagine the impact that God's boundless love will have for all of us when we return home.

Voice 3: Because Christ's love dwells in us, we stand firm, deeply rooted in a God beyond measure.

Voice 4: Hello! I am [name], from [congregation, town]. Know this: No matter where you are in life, you matter. You are enough, simply because you are God's unique creation. This synod needs you. This church needs you. You belong here. We are the church together.

Today we will explore the theme "boundless forgiveness" by reflecting on God's forgiveness in our large group and small groups.

I invite you to stand as you are able as we sing together.

SONG

SCRIPTURE STORY

Voice 1: One way we learn about our boundless God is through Scripture. The Bible is full of stories about invitation, some of which might come to mind now, but today we will focus on Luke 1:26-38.

Read or dramatize Luke 1:26-38.

SCRIPT

Voice 1: But how can we measure forgiveness?

Voice 2: We could measure how many times we said, "I'm sorry."

Voice 3: Or how many times we took communion.

Voice 4: Or how many times we broke one of the commandments.

Voice 1: But the truth is, we can never understand God's forgiveness by measuring it against our human ability to love and forgive.

Voice 2: God's forgiveness extends far beyond our human understanding of love.

Voice 3: Through God's boundless forgiveness, God wants to remind us that, no matter our sins, God loves us unconditionally.

Voice 4: God's unconditional love reminds us of the father from today's Scripture story, who "saw his wayward son and was filled with compassion."

Voice 3: Let's be honest: we have all made poor decisions, decisions that we later regretted. Our poor actions, non-actions and bad reactions always hurt us and those we love. We tend to make these poor choices because of our sin; even when we try our best, we have our faults.

Voice 4: Confronted by the breadth of God’s forgiveness, we can sometimes be like the older son in the Scripture story, who judges and holds a grudge against his brother. He speaks from a place of anger and jealousy because he can’t understand his father’s unconditional and boundless forgiveness.

Voice 3: Understanding the depth of this forgiveness is hard because we live in a world that tells us it’s OK to hold grudges and seek revenge. By perpetuating systems of oppression and pain, we create shame and suffering in our world.

Voice 1: But remember: God’s forgiveness exceeds our human understanding of forgiveness.

Voice 2: God loves us so much that God sent Jesus, God’s only son.

Voice 1: In our church we confess, “I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.”

Voice 2: We confess that Christ’s glorious resurrection opened to us the way of boundless life.

Voice 1: In Jesus, we see boundless forgiveness that sets us free.

Voice 2: On the cross, we see boundless forgiveness that sets us free.

Voice 3: On the cross, we see God’s response, moved by endless love and reflected in boundless forgiveness.

Voice 4: On the cross, we are all set free.

Voice 1: When Jesus rose from the grave, he defeated the power of death itself. Neither sin, death nor the devil has the final word over you any longer. You are free.

Voice 2: You are free!

Voice 3: What does this freedom mean for you now?

Voice 1: It means that we can live surrounded by amazing, boundless grace. We know that we are loved by a creator who made us wonderful exactly as we are. We live free to love our neighbors. We live free to share in God’s abundant grace.

Voice 2: We are free to serve and benefit others in everything we do. Free of our own worries about forgiveness, we can focus on the needs of others.

Voice 3: You are free to live as God intended you to live — as people radically forgiven by a boundless God.

Voice 1: Now we are free to welcome to the stage [name] from [congregation, town] to offer their story of how they experience God’s boundless forgiveness, free to live as a child of God.

FORGIVENESS TESTIMONY: “I AM CALLED TO . . .”

Depending on time, select one or more youth to share a story of their faith, using the prompt “I am free to . . .” Having experienced God’s boundless forgiveness in your own life, help the youth craft a message or a talk about how they are living into God’s boundless grace. A word of caution on a theme such as forgiveness: this is not a time for oversharing or sharing things that they need to be forgiven for. Instead this is a time to share how they are free in grace to love and serve others. Strive for diversity (of experience, ethnicity, geography, etc.) as you pick the youth.

- *How do you experience God’s forgiveness in your life?*
- *When did you practice forgiveness toward others?*
- *How do you respond to Luther’s statement in *The Freedom of a Christian* that “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”*
- *How do you experience the breadth of God’s welcome to all people, to live free from judgment or shame?*

As the youth prepare for this moment, they may choose to write or speak from memory. They should check with you about the direction they are going to make sure it harmonizes with the theme for the day. This moment is important because the youth will see peers from their synod talking publicly about their faith. Affirm the gifts that God will bring to this moment of witness!

SONG

TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

Voice 1: Thank you, [name of youth], for sharing with us your story of how you encountered God’s boundlessness in your life.

Voice 4: We’re going to explore this further in small groups.

Explain the process for breaking the larger group into small units.

Every participant will be part of a small group — youth and adults alike. Find your small-group space and take time to introduce yourself. We have some suggested icebreakers for you. After getting acquainted with one another, begin the small-group discussion and the activities provided.

Voice 1: Small-group leaders are dismissed and should go to their designated meeting space. The rest of us are going to sing and will be dismissed by rows.

SONG

PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

Voice 3: Let us pray: boundless God, [insert rest of prayer].

Voice 3: I need everyone in the last three rows to raise hands. Now wave goodbye to everyone, head out, grab your lunch and move to your small-group space.

SMALL-GROUP TIME

Refer to the appendix.

SMALL-GROUP WRAP-UP AND RETURN TO LARGE-GROUP SPACE

Worship

+ GATHERING +

God calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

A worship leader invites the assembly to gather.

Leader: God's love is . . .

Assembly: *(place hand over heart): . . . boundless.*

Leader: God's creation is . . .

Assembly: *(open arms wide): . . . boundless.*

Leader: God's forgiveness is . . .

Assembly: *(cross wrists): . . . boundless.*

Leader: God's invitation is . . .

Assembly: *(uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched): . . . boundless.*

Leader: God's promise is . . .

Assembly: *(trace cross on another's hand or forehead): . . . boundless.*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks (you may divide this text between different voices).

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

People of God, in the baptismal waters, we travel with Christ from death to life. Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt and our shame are washed away.

You, O God, wash us clean.

Our fear, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our despair — all are washed away by grace.

You, O God, wash us clean.

Our pride, our hypocrisy and other people's opinions of us no longer have the power to define us.

You, O God, give us new life.

The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery, so that we might bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

You, O God, give us new life.

Rejoice that God has claimed us in this boundless grace, not by our own doing or believing but by God's boundless mercy.

You, O God, give us new life.

As we begin worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

SONG

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, we hurt others with things we say and do, as well as things we don't say or do. Yet you long to forgive us. Guide our hearts that we might seek your forgiveness and trust that it is boundless. Center our actions on your grace. Remind us that boundless forgiveness is your gift to us, if we but ask. **Amen.**
(From the "Getting Ready Materials.")

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in Scripture, preaching and song.

GOSPEL

The text below is from the New Revised Standard Version, but feel free to use a translation or version of the story that feels right for your gathering.

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So, he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

SERMON

SONG

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Below are suggested prayer petitions, but prayers should be crafted to address what is going on in your assembly. Feel free to use, adapt or add to these prayers.

God of boundless forgiveness, we thank you for reaching out to us lovingly before we even think of asking. Help us to have faith in your promises even when we feel unworthy or excluded. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless forgiveness, we live in a world of excess and extravagance. We often take more than we need. Forgive us for the ways we have abused your creation. Help us to see our role in renewing creation with your boundless care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless forgiveness, many places in our world need to know the power of your love. We pray for forgiveness when we hurt each other with things we have done or left undone, words we have spoken or fail to speak. Help us speak truth to power and forgive us when we fall short of doing right. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless forgiveness, at many times in our lives we have lost our way. Help us to see our place in your wide and expansive family and to celebrate when lost people are found again. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless forgiveness, we thank you for Jesus Christ, who lovingly opened his arms to all. Show us our role in extending that boundless grace throughout the world today. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

See appendix for instructions on making these elements. As you receive your offerings, collect the strips of cloth that participants created during their small-group time.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of boundless riches, we give you thanks that each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made. Help us to use our gifts and abilities to serve you and spread the good news of your boundless love for all. Help us to share what we have with others so that they might come to know how deeply you care for your whole creation. **Amen.**

+ MEAL +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister invites us to give thanks.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should, at all times and in all places,
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our savior, Jesus Christ.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

To be spoken or sung.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry,
our hunger and thirst for justice your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

On the night he would be betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke the bread
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and urged all to drink, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

We invite the assembly to pray in the version and language in their hearts.

OR

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray now the words that Jesus taught us in whatever way feels most comfortable to us.

OPTION A: Our Father in heaven

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

OPTION B: Our Father, who art in heaven

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the boundless banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

Information about receiving communion today.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of boundless abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we might boldly proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

I want you to know all about Christ's love,
though it is too wonderful to be measured.
boundless is the love,
boundless is the creator,
boundless is the forgiveness,
boundless is the invitation,
boundless is the promise.
May your lives be filled with all (+) that God is. **Amen.**

Let's stand and sing our final song.

SONG

DISMISSAL

Go in peace in God's boundless love.
Thanks be to God.

MUSIC

Appendix: Small Group Time

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Strips of cloth.
- Fabric pens.
- Collection of images (or stack of magazines).

ACTIVITY ONE: Introductions

Small-group Leader: While we eat, let's share our names, our hometowns and a high point in our lives.

ACTIVITY TWO: Visual Faith Activity Instructions

Small-group Leader: Before you is a collection of images. You are invited to browse them as a way of reflecting on our daily theme, selecting one or two that are meaningful to you or that speak to you about the day's theme. After selecting your images, share them with the group.

- What aspect of this image most grabs your attention?
- How does today's focus story relate to this image?
- Where might God be in this image? What would God be doing?

ACTIVITY THREE: An Offering

Small-group Leader: Take a marker and a piece of cloth. The cloth represents your unique self. With the marker, create your own response to the daily themes:

- I am made . . .
- I am free to . . .
- I am called to . . .

In worship today, we will present these responses as our offering, testifying to the way we live and know God's boundless love.