

CHILDREN'S SERMON

By Rev. Teresa Kim Pecinovsky

I have a big question for you today: What do you need to live on? Let's think of things we can touch and see first that we need. [Provide example prompts if needed: shelter, food, clothing, etc.]

Great, these are all physical things we need in order to live. What about things we can't see or feel? We need things like kindness and love. What else can you think of that we need to live on? [Examples can be friendship, prayer, inclusive play, sharing.]

How would you feel if you suddenly lost some of these things you need to live on? [Give time for children to share.] You might feel sad, or scared or angry. And you might feel all alone. Can you imagine if you lost your home, all your toys and clothes? That would be pretty awful. Now imagine if lots of people came together to provide you with a new home, new clothing, new toys? That would be pretty amazing, right?

One of the ways that our church helps do this is through a ministry called Week of Compassion. When people lose their homes after bad storms or fires, or when they leave their homes to move somewhere safe, they get help to get all the things they need to live on. Lots of churches send money or even help work with Week of Compassion to build new homes, provide meals and find jobs. When we all add our gifts together there can be enough for everyone's needs.

This week we are giving money to Week of Compassion, but I also want you to think about how you can share your gifts with others in need. What would it look like for you to share kindness and friendship with someone who needs it? Let's take some time to pray that we can share our gifts so everyone has enough to live on.

*Dear God,
We thank you for providing us with many things to live on: not just our beds and homes, but also the stories we read at bedtime, and the laughter we share with our families. We pray for people near us and far away who don't have the things they need to live on. Help us to be generous with not only our money, but also our time, our friendship, and our love. We pray that all of these gifts will show your love to our neighbors in Jesus' name, Amen.*



photos: 1 OGMP/Adam Frieberg; 2 Week of Compassion

GIVING TOGETHER

Stories about adding our gifts together can be found at WeekOfCompassion.org/2024 - look for 'Mission Moments'.

- girls' education in Afghanistan
- welcoming refugees in Virginia
- caring for children after wildfires in Hawaii
- healthcare for women in South Sudan
- new homes after tornadoes in Kentucky