

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Constructed to be used in your own words or followed as a script, this children's moment illustrates some of the ways young people know and experience love as well as share it with others. Please adapt for your setting and particular community. The script and design may be adjusted to fit your virtual or hybrid worship context.

Theme

Week of Compassion shows us what love is by helping others live abundant lives connected to God's creation. There are many ways for us to experience love and to share that with others. Sometimes, we just need to think about love in new ways.

Materials needed

- An affirming listening ear, eager to engage children's ideas!
- Coinboxes to pass out to the children.
- Photo of Myanmar chicken feeding project

Script Suggestion

I want to ask you a very serious question: if I told you I loved you, what would you say?

Give time for responses.

Now, what would you say if I asked you, "What does love look like?"

Give time for responses.

In one of the books of the Bible, a man by the name of Paul, we sometimes call him "Apostle Paul," wrote some ideas about this.

He said that love is patient, is kind, and is truth. He also says some things love is NOT: love is not rude or irritating and it does not do wrong to others.

Have you ever heard that? He even says that *love never ends*.

Wow! Can you think of ways that you could be loving toward another person? Maybe in your family or at school?

Give time for responses.

One of the ways we can show love is to help others. Through a special offering for Week of Compassion, we have the chance to help other people we may never meet. One of the projects we have helped make possible was rebuilding a school after it was destroyed by a hurricane. Doesn't that sound like a way to love another person? Would you want someone to help rebuild your school if it was destroyed?

There's another way Week of Compassion has helped us show love to others, and I think it's really cool. In a country called Myanmar, our offering helps women buy chickens. They can sell the eggs to others so that they can have enough to eat and provide for their families.

Show the picture.

Did you ever think you could love someone by giving them a chicken! Well, you can.

Next, pass out Week of Compassion coinboxes to children and families OR arrange for them to be given out at an appropriate time.

You have a chance to show love to others through this offering, which you can collect through the next week [or two].

Here is a special bank that will help you show love to others. At home, I'd like you to think about all the times you experience love. And with your family, maybe each night at dinner, or when you have breakfast, think and pray together about how you want to make a difference. Maybe you want to put in a coin or even a dollar for every time you feel loved.



Or maybe you want to count all the times you've done something loving toward another person and add an amount of money for every time. I bet you can think of a lot of creative ways to help! It's a way of being mindful of all that we have, being grateful, and helping others.

Share any details about when your community will be receiving the offering, and when and how they should return the coinboxes.

Let's pray a blessing together on these banks and on the offering we'll receive with them. What do we hope God will do?

Allow for all their prayer requests. All prayers are welcome!

Very good! Let's pray:

If you are comfortable doing so, incorporate the specific requests and wording offered by the children in your prayer with them. And/Or you may wish to use this prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for loving us so much and showing us how we can love others. Use the offerings we will put in these boxes to change someone's life. Help us love those we will never even meet. With thankful hearts, we pray. Amen.