

YOUTH ACTIVITY

Love remembers.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

“Remember” poem; ball of yarn; rubber ball or balloon (optional)

Week of Compassion works with partners around the world to help those who are suffering. With our offerings, Week of Compassion helps rebuild communities affected by disaster and also creates opportunities that empower communities around the world to thrive. These kinds of responses point us toward better and more sustainable stewardship of the earth and our resources.

In Indonesia, the DREAM project¹ (Disaster Risk Reduction through Enhanced Adaptive Measures) focuses on helping farming families build their resilience. The program is rooted in the reality that families who have economic stability are less vulnerable to bad harvests or other unforeseen challenges.

In Myanmar, chickens are helping women survive, as the women sell the eggs the hens produce. Their locally sourced meat sells for two times more than imported poultry.

As we think about programs like these and how we support them with our Week of Compassion offerings, we also consider that we are connected to one another—and to all of the world through the intricate web of creation.

US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo has written a beautiful poem called “Remember.”² Her words and images invite us to remember those connections.

¹Check the Leader Guide for the full story!

²“Remember.” Copyright ©1983 by Joy Harjo from *She Had Some Horses* by Joy Harjo. <https://poets.org/poem/remember-0>

REFLECT

If you are in a group setting, read the poem and break it into phrases which can be discussed in small groups. Groups could share remembrances in groups of two or three and then create new groups to discuss another set of phrases. Sharing could include family stories, stories about time spent outdoors, stories about interacting with people who are unlike them in some way. Allow the poem to lead the discussions. You may want to conclude with some all-group questions like:

How does remembering our own stories help us connect with each other?

How does the Week of Compassion offering help us remember our connections with others around the world, even those we may never meet?

MAKE A WEB

Gather your group into a circle. Have one person hold a ball of yarn and say: “Love is connection. Love is _____.” While holding onto the end of the yarn, they will toss the ball to someone else who fills in the blank. Then that person says, “love is connection. Love is _____,” holds a piece of the yarn and tosses the ball to another person across the circle. Continue until everyone has received the ball twice, and the yarn makes a web of connections.

Once the web is complete, spend some time reflecting on the connections that bind us together--even the ones that we can't see!

If there's time, you may want to take a ball or balloon and bounce it around, using the web to catch it then toss it again. Note how this web provides support when the connections hold.