

INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITY

Community Water Awareness: *Church, Home, Community*

In this activity, adults and children can connect gratitude, stewardship, and awareness of God's blessings in the form of our water. The more we know, the more love can flow! Too often we don't know how to be good stewards of the sources that provide for us. For this project, a group of any size can organize a "water tour and clean up." It could be of your house, your church or even a neighborhood and the time can be adjusted to include an actual clean up (e.g., 2 hours) or for a shorter time consider an "inventory project," where participants tour, observe, and respond. Here are the steps and a short prayer that can be used at each stage:

1. Gather your group and plan your time, adjusting to the ages, needs, and size of your investigation! Make sure to consider the youngest and oldest members of your team. If not everyone can go every place, how will you help everyone participate meaningfully, even if they can't participate equally?

PRAYER MEDITATION:

"Lord, thank you for this community, sustained by your gifts. Help us care for each other! Amen."

2. In your house, church or neighborhood, identify all the sources of water. If possible, go to these sources.

PRAYER MEDITATION:

"God, you breathed on the face of the water and brought forth all that was good. Like water at its source, love flows from you to sustain us. Help us sustain others in your name. Amen!"

3. Water is a flowing, moving resource. Even water in lakes is constantly evaporating or being used by people, or flowing into rivers and streams. Where does the water go in your neighborhood? What about in your building? Make a list of how the water is used and/or flows to the next place. If you have a map or can use one on the computer, trace the route your water takes. Which ocean does it eventually meet?

PRAYER MEDITATION:

"Every drop of water connects us to each other and to you, God of all the earth. Remind us of our connections to those near and far and let flowing love be our legacy in your name. Amen."

4. How can we steward these resources? Loving God is about loving what God loves, and caring for those gifts that sustain us and all people. As you investigate your house, your church building or neighborhood, how could you improve the water usage?

IN A HOUSE, note and then if possible repair any leaks or corroded fixtures. Are there ways you could use less water? (Check into low flow faucets, showerheads, toilets, etc.) Young people can help older participants with writing down needs and assisting with repairs.

AT CHURCH you might find similar needs. Write them down and make sure you offer to help the people in charge of the property. Make a list of what would steward God's water best in God's house!



IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Many waters are polluted because of the trash that gets thrown into water supplies. In multi-generational teams with adult supervision, tour the neighborhood. Could you safely clean up the banks and paths that lead to water? Banks of streams, gutters, and yards are all good places to start: removing this debris keeps the water clearer and helps us recognize how precious and how fragile a resource water is, even in places where it is easy to access. Make sure you work in teams, have gloves and trash bags, and don't pick up anything sharp that might cut you. If you can't do a full clean up, make note and send pictures to your local utilities or water management agency. Ask them to help you keep the waters clean!

You might also want to look into other groups or organizations in your community that are working to make the water safe. How can you work together in partnership to make sure everyone has what they need?

PRAYER MEDITATION:

“God, We don’t always do all we can to keep your people and world safe. Help us now as we recommit to caring for our house, our church, our neighborhood and our world as stewards of your ever-flowing grace and love. Amen!”

Share a picture of your activities on Instagram and tag @weekofcompassion!