

YOUTH ACTIVITY

Love moves.

In Myanmar, a Week of Compassion supported program provides chickens for women, who can then sell the eggs to earn a living wage. Another program in Indonesia supports farmers as they adapt to changing climate and environmental conditions. In Dayton, Ohio, those who were displaced by tornadoes are finding a path toward home ownership.

You can think of many other ways that **love moves.**

In our own neighborhoods, we can witness the effects when we love others by our actions. We can also love our surroundings. We can be kind and patient through the way we treat the earth. Our stewardship of creation is a part of the way that we love others. Caring for the environment helps create a more just world where all of God's children can thrive.

In groups of three or more¹, take a walk around the neighborhood surrounding your church or home. While on the walk, consider doing the following:

- Pick up any trash and make sure it is properly disposed of.²
- Collect any items that could be recycled and discuss the benefits of recycling. Make sure the items are recycled appropriately.
- Look for ways the surroundings have been improved by others through time. For example, is there a bicycle rack near a park?

¹Make sure that each group has both youth and adults!
² Be sure to take proper safety precautions, like wearing good gloves and sturdy footwear.

- How are these improvements a way to show love and care to others? Discuss with your group.
- Look for ways that changes have been made to our surroundings that are not loving. Discuss these as well.
- Observe all of God's creation. What animals do you see? Are flowers in bloom? Where are the trees? Are the squirrels playful? Are the birds singing?
 - How does God's creation demonstrate love toward us?

When you return to where you began, discuss what people observed. Where was love seen? Heard? In what ways could better stewardship of creation be a part of our everyday lives? Can you think of other examples of how love moves or is active?

After the walk...

Share a light snack or lunch following the walk and take some time to discuss what you saw and heard. Think about some actions that the group will take to become better stewards of the earth through loving actions. Consider creating an action plan based upon the discussion.

If this activity cannot be done in a group setting...

If you cannot meet in person for this activity, encourage people to do it on their own or in family groups wherever they live. Schedule a time to meet via ZOOM or some other online platform to share in reflections of the experience.