



CURRICULUM SERIES **CREATION**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2022 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING
boundless
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

This resource is made possible by writers from across the Church:

ERIC CARLSON

CHELLE HUTH

BEA MUNK

BRYAN PENMAN

RALEN ROBINSON

MELINA THURMOND

Leader Prep

INTRODUCTION

The theme for this curriculum is “boundless: God beyond measure.” Its primary Scripture verses are Ephesians 3:14-21 CEV:

¹⁴I kneel in prayer to the [Lord]. ¹⁵All beings in heaven and on earth receive their life from [God]. ¹⁶God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that [God’s] Spirit will make you become strong followers ¹⁷and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in [God’s] love. ¹⁸I pray that you and all of God’s people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep. ¹⁹I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is. ²⁰⁻²¹I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. [God’s] power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved by us but freely given by God, changes lives and perspectives as people realize that, because of what Christ has done, they are enough, and that they are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news.

Three different sections of the curriculum are available for use. Within the framework of worship, large-group settings and small-group conversations, participants will dwell daily on one of three themes:

- boundless creation.
- boundless forgiveness.
- boundless invitation.

THE SCRIPT

This script is written for four leaders, but please recruit as many as you like. Engaging adults and high school students for several hours requires passion and energy consider recruiting participants who will lead this session in an engaging, high energy, and passionate way. **Please involve youth in these leadership roles!** If possible, leaders should memorize their lines and deliver them as a storyteller would.

We encourage leaders to rehearse the script ahead of your event, memorize their lines and deliver them as a storyteller would. Take the opportunity to practice the script in the space you will use for your event. Leaders may even want to mark up their scripts with stage directions and practice transitions in the space so that they don’t bump into each other and can get used to the setup (where microphones are located, which will be open at what time, etc.).

YOUTH TESTIMONY

The curriculum offers young people a chance to reflect on the daily themes. The script provides more information and instructions on crafting this time. We encourage you to identify these people well in advance so that they might begin formulating their testimony.

VOLUNTEERS

We suggest that you train your volunteers prior to or on the day of the event, assigning them to communion stations during the training. Volunteers needed are:

- Greeters.
- Leadership voices for the script below.
- Musicians.
- Media coordinator.
- Communion distributors (we suggest three per station for every 100 communicants).
- Small-group leaders (we suggest one for every eight participants).

SCHEDULE

The schedule of events is yours to decide, and the script allows space for you to set your own time markers. Following is an example of a one-day schedule:

9:00 am	Musicians and leadership teams arrive for rehearsal and training.
10:00 am	Space is ready for participants.
10:30 am	Doors open for music and activities.
11:00 am	Leaders welcome participants and introduce themselves.
11:30 am	Leaders introduce daily theme.
12:00 pm	Large group breaks for lunch and breakout groups.
1:30 pm	Participants return to the large-group session.
1:45 pm	Holy Communion.
2:45 pm	Sending: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

MUSIC

Live music is encouraged for this event, especially music utilizing the gifts of your young people.

Script

*Team leaders and musicians arrive.
Set up stage, block out stage directions, train worship assistants.
Check sound.
Ready space for participants.*

DOORS OPEN

As groups begin to enter the large-group space, encourage them to sing along with your music. You could also have a few large-group activities ready for this time.

WELCOME

Voice 1: The Lord be with you!
Synod: And also with you!

Voice 1 (louder): The Lord be with you!
Synod: And also with you!

Voice 1 (louder still): The Lord be with you!
Synod: And also with you!

Use this prayer or one of your own.

Voice 1: Let us pray.
Good and gracious God, you made your boundless love known to us in Jesus. Thank you for calling us together in this holy place and time. Bless our day with the power and presence of your Holy Spirit, so that we might all be filled with your presence. And all of God's people say, "Amen."

Synod: Amen!

Voice 1: Hello! I am [name], from [congregation, town]. I am thrilled to be one of several people serving as your hosts today.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We encourage you to create a land acknowledgement based on your location. A good resource for understanding and creating land acknowledgements can be found at <https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>, or consider this sample text from Minneapolis:

"We acknowledge that we stand on the traditional lands of the Dakota people, lands that have been the ancestral home of indigenous and native peoples for generations. This land was taken on July 23rd, 1851 by the US government, part of land cession 289 that included most of the southwestern part of Minnesota. In affirming this land as the homeland of our indigenous neighbors, we recognize the legacies of violence and cultural genocide that occurred alongside the displacement of their

communities, as well as the responsibility we all share to not let these truths be buried any longer. Indigenous people from other Native nations also reside in Minnesota and have made innumerable contributions to this region.”



Why Land Acknowledgements Are Important

The Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin

SONG

INTRODUCTION OF THE DAY

Voice 2: Hey, Everybody. I am [name], from [congregation, town]. So what is this day all about? [Fill in as appropriate for your event.]

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP / SYNOD LEADER

Voice 2: One of the ways we become church together is through the [name] Synod. It is my honor to introduce to you the bishop of our synod, Bishop [name].

BISHOP / SYNOD LEADER:

*The bishop gives a greeting that lasts no longer than 5 minutes.
Please emphasize the overall theme — “boundless: God beyond measure” — and the daily theme.*

boundless THEME

Voice 3: Hello! I am [name], from [congregation, town]. Today we gather under the theme “boundless: God beyond measure.”

Let’s try our “boundless” litany together. We’ll show you how it’s done, then we’ll all do it together. OK, here we go:

Voice 4: God’s love is . . .

Synod (hand over heart): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God’s creation is . . .

Synod (open arms wide): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God’s forgiveness is . . .

Synod (cross wrists): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God’s invitation is . . .

Synod (uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God’s promise is . . .

Synod: (trace cross on another’s hand or forehead): . . . boundless.

Voice 3: OK, now that we know the actions, let's say it together.

Voice 4: God's love is . . .

Synod (place hand over heart): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God's creation is . . .

Synod (open arms wide): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God's forgiveness is . . .

Synod (cross wrists): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God's invitation is . . .

Synod (uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched): . . . boundless.

Voice 4: God's promise is . . .

Synod: (trace cross on another's hand or forehead): . . . boundless.

You may wish to do this a few times over.

Voice 3: We have a boundless God, willing to exceed the borders of our own comfort to show us love. Sometimes we may feel unworthy of that love, but God is constant.

Voice 1: We are bound by so many things — by poverty and pandemic, by social media, by the expectations of our parents and others, by our own sin and self-doubt. Sometimes it can be overwhelming.

Voice 2: But God is bound by none of those things. God reaches out to each of us, surrounding us in a love that is infinite and immeasurable.

Voice 3: God's boundless love for us exceeds anything we could possibly dream or imagine. Just when we think we have God figured out, God is so much more.

Voice 4: Just when we think we have God's love figured out, God loves us more.

Voice 1: Just when we think we have seen God's creation, God creates more.

Voice 2: Just when we think we have figured out God's forgiveness, God forgives us more.

Voice 3: Just when we think we have heard God's invitation, God invites us to more.

Voice 4: Just when we believe in God's promises, God promises us more.

Voice 1: God's love is more wonderful than we could ever experience or imagine. We see God's love working in each of us as we gather in this space, experiencing the boundless number of lives changed.

Voice 2: Working in each of us, God's boundless power can do far more than we dare ask or imagine.

Voice 3: Because Christ's love dwells in us, we stand firm, deeply rooted in a God beyond measure.

Voice 4: Hello! I am [name], from [congregation, town]. Know this: No matter where you are in life, you matter. You are enough, simply because you are God's unique creation. This synod needs you. This church needs you. This world needs you. You belong here. We are the church together.

Today we will explore the theme “boundless creation” by reflecting on God’s creation in our large and small groups.

I invite you stand as you are able as we sing together.

SONG

SCRIPTURE STORY

Voice 1: One way we learn about our boundless God is through Scripture. The Bible is full of stories about creation, some of which might come to mind now, but today we will focus on Psalm 104 (CEV).

Read or dramatize Psalm 104:1-34 (CEV).

SCRIPT

Voice 1: In our daily lives we measure — in art, cooking, construction, etc.

Voice 2: Measuring can help us understand the world in important ways.

Voice 3: It helps us make scientific discoveries such as new vaccines.

Voice 4: It helps us bake cakes . . .

Voice 2: . . . build cities . . .

Voice 3: . . . create art . . .

Voice 4: . . . and explore the farthest reaches of the cosmos.

Voice 1: We can even measure creation itself.

Voice 2: The earth is seven-thousand, nine-hundred and seventeen (7,917) miles wide.

Voice 3: There are over three-hundred, ninety-thousand, nine-hundred (It hosts more than 390,900 kinds of plants . . .

Voice 4: . . . Eight-million, seven-hundred thousand (8.7 million species . . .

Voice 2: . . . seven continents and five oceans.

Voice 3: Yet, each and every day, we discover new parts of creation and reach new understandings of its boundless wonder of Creation.

Voice 4: We marvel at the limitlessness of all God has made, yet we often take creation for granted, producing more waste and pollution than ever before.

Voice 1: This impacts all of us, yet the effects of mistreating creation burden some groups more than others.

Voice 2: Fueled by greenhouse-gas emissions, our changing climate subjects communities around the world to higher risk of droughts, extreme heat waves, floods and other natural disasters. When creation is broken in this way, people have trouble growing crops, raising livestock and accessing clean drinking water. Communities that rely on the land to live are often affected more by these climate extremes.

Voice 3: When we abuse creation, low-income communities often suffer the effects because major sources of pollution are built near poorer neighborhoods. Landfills, refineries and factories all produce high levels of pollution that often affect the minority populations living nearby. Dangerous levels of air and water pollution have been linked to asthma, lead poisoning and cancers in both adults and children.

Voice 1: Our faith calls us to a special relationship with the earth. We might assume that the earth belongs to us, but we — along with the whole earth — belong to God.

Voice 3: Making this shift in our minds and hearts allows us to see the world as a home for all God’s people. When we see the world as our common home, we see why we, as followers of Christ, are called to care for the land and sea we live on and the neighbors we live alongside.

Voice 1: In our church we confess, “I believe in God the almighty, creator of heaven and earth.” By confessing this truth, we name God as creator of the wonder that surrounds us.

Voice 3: As Lutherans, we have a specific call to care for what God has created — not just to maintain the natural world but to protect, serve and love creation. Caring for the boundless creation we all share is one important way to show love for our neighbor.

Voice 4: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,” we read in John 3;16. but the truth is that God loved the cosmos, sending Jesus to show us the way of reconciliation, not just with our neighbors but with everything that has the breath of life. In Jesus we discover that we too have been made into the very fabric of the cosmos, with a sacred duty to care for others and creation.

Voice 1: “O Lord, how manifold are your works!” reads Psalm 104. “In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures” (24). We rejoice that we have been made as part of the creation God calls “tov” [rhymes with “stove”], a Hebrew word meaning “very good.”

Voice 2: We rejoice and celebrate that each of us has been created with unique gifts.

Voice 3: We rejoice and celebrate our unity with the natural world.

Voice 4: We rejoice and celebrate that we have been made as part of creation to help heal and restore it.

Voice 2: We rejoice and celebrate the God who creates an immeasurable — boundless — story of creation that unfolds in each of our lives.

Voice 1: Finally, we rejoice and celebrate [name of youth] from [congregation, town], welcoming them to the stage to recount how they have been uniquely and wonderfully made as part of God’s boundless creation.

CREATION TESTIMONY: “I AM MADE TO . . .”

Depending on time, select one or more youth to share a story of their faith, using the prompt “I am made to...” Having experienced God’s boundless creation in your own life, help the youth craft a message or a talk about how they are living in God’s boundless creation. Some brainstorming questions follow to help them prepare. In choosing the youth, strive for diversity (of ethnicity, experience, geography, etc.).

- *How has God made you a unique part of creation?*
- *Where do you see God’s creation broken? How do you feel called to mend it?*
- *What does creation teach you about God?*

The youths should write out their responses and review this content with the event director to be sure their direction harmonizes with the theme for the day. This moment is important because the youths will see peers from their synod talking publicly about their faith. Affirm the gifts that God will bring to this moment of witness!

SONG

TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

Voice 1: Thank you, [name of youth], for sharing with us your story of how you encountered God’s boundlessness in your life.

Voice 4: We’re going to explore this further in small groups.

Explain the process for breaking the larger group into small units.

Every participant will be part of a small group — youth and adults alike. Find your small-group space and take time to introduce yourself. We have some suggested icebreakers for you. After getting acquainted with one another, begin the small-group discussion and the activities provided.

Voice 1: Small-group leaders are dismissed and should go to their designated meeting space. The rest of us are going to sing and will be dismissed by rows.

SONG

PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

Voice 3: Let us pray: boundless God, [insert rest of prayer].

Voice 3: I need everyone in the last three rows to raise hands. Now wave goodbye to everyone, head out, grab your lunch and move to your small-group space.

SMALL-GROUP TIME

Refer to the appendix.

SMALL-GROUP WRAP-UP AND RETURN TO LARGE-GROUP SPACE

Worship

+ GATHERING +

God calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

A worship leader invites the assembly to gather.

Leader: God's love is . . .

Assembly: *(place hand over heart): . . . boundless.*

Leader: God's creation is . . .

Assembly: *(open arms wide): . . . boundless.*

Leader: God's forgiveness is . . .

Assembly: *(cross wrists): . . . boundless.*

Leader: God's invitation is . . .

Assembly: *(uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched): . . . boundless.*

Leader: God's promise is . . .

Assembly: *(trace cross on another's hand or forehead): . . . boundless.*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks (you may divide this text between different voices).

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

People of God, in the baptismal waters, we travel with Christ from death to life. Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt and our shame are washed away.

You, O God, wash us clean.

Our fear, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our despair — all are washed away by grace.

You, O God, wash us clean.

Our pride, our hypocrisy and other people's opinions of us no longer have the power to define us.

You, O God, give us new life.

The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery, so that we might bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

You, O God, give us new life.

Rejoice that God has claimed us in this boundless grace, not by our own doing or believing but by God's boundless mercy.

You, O God, give us new life.

As we begin worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

SONG

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, you made all that was, is and will be. We celebrate that your creation has no bounds and that we are allowed to participate in it. Help us to appreciate the magnificent world you have made and to care for it in a way that honors you. **Amen.**

(From the "Getting Ready Materials.")

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in Scripture, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: PSALM 104:1-34

An adapted version of Psalm 104 follows.

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
²wrapped in light as with a garment.
You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
³you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,
you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind.

Refrain

²⁴**O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

¹³From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
¹⁴You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
¹⁵and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.

Refrain

**O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

¹⁸The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the [rabbits].
¹⁹You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
²⁰You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

Refrain

**O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

²¹The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.

²²When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.

²³People go out to their work
and to their labor until the evening.

Refrain

**O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷These all look to you

to give them their food in due season;

²⁸when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

Refrain

**O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

³¹May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works —

³²who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

Refrain

**O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

GOSPEL

SERMON

SONG

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Below are suggested prayer petitions, but prayers should be crafted to address what is going on in your assembly. Feel free to use, adapt or add to these prayers.

God of boundless creation, we give you thanks for the beauty we see in creation. Help us learn to tell the story of your creative power so that others might share our wonder and awe at all you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless creation, we thank you for creating us in your image. As we care for friends and family, help us to reflect the boundless mercy and love you show your whole creation. Help us to recognize and celebrate the diversity of life that you have created. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless creation, we know that you made creation with enough for everyone, yet we continue to see people go hungry each and every day. Help us create a world where all have access to clean drinking water, food on the table and protection from natural disasters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless creation, we thank you for the work of scientists, engineers, scholars and environmentalists, who work every day to discover new ways we might live in harmony with our planet. Help us to do our part in creating a world where all may live and thrive. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless creation, so much of creation needs your healing power. Help those who are punished by our misuse of earthly resources. Stand with communities as they recover from natural disasters, and help those who suffer the effects of air and water pollution. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless creation, you have blessed humankind with understanding, imagination and memory. Show us how to learn from past mistakes and plan for the future creatively and responsibly. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

See appendix for instructions on making these elements. As you receive your offerings, collect the strips of cloth that participants created during their small-group time.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of boundless riches, we give you thanks that each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made. Help us to use our gifts and abilities to serve you and spread the good news of your boundless love for all. Help us to share what we have with others so that they might come to know how deeply you care for your whole creation. **Amen.**

+ MEAL +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister invites us to give thanks.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should, at all times and in all places,
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our savior, Jesus Christ.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

To be spoken or sung.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell
and with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son
at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer,
beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

We thank you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness through the water,
by night and day, across the wilderness,
out of exile, into the future.

We bless you, O God.

On the night he would be betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke the bread
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks
and urged all to drink, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering his love for us
on the way, at the table and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit,
in our gathering, within this meal, among your people,
boundless throughout the world.
Blessing, praise and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

We invite the assembly to pray in the version and language in their hearts.

OR

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray now the words that Jesus taught us in whatever way feels most comfortable to us.

OPTION A: Our Father in heaven

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

OPTION B: Our Father, who art in heaven

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the boundless banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

Information about receiving communion today.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of boundless abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we might boldly proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

I want you to know all about Christ's love,
though it is too wonderful to be measured.
boundless is the love,
boundless is the creator,
boundless is the forgiveness,
boundless is the invitation,
boundless is the promise.
May your lives be filled with all (+) that God is. **Amen.**

Let's stand and sing our final song.

SONG

DISMISSAL

Go in peace in God's boundless love.
Thanks be to God.

MUSIC

Appendix: Small Group Time

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Strips of cloth.
- Fabric pens.
- Collection of images (or stack of magazines).

ACTIVITY ONE: Introductions

Small-group Leader: While we eat, let's share our names, our hometowns and a high point in our lives.

ACTIVITY TWO: Visual Faith Activity Instructions

Small-group Leader: Before you is a collection of images. You are invited to browse them as a way of reflecting on our daily theme, selecting one or two that are meaningful to you or that speak to you about the day's theme. After selecting your images, share them with the group.

- What aspect of this image most grabs your attention?
- How does today's focus story relate to this image?
- Where might God be in this image? What would God be doing?

ACTIVITY THREE: An Offering

Small-group Leader: Take a marker and a piece of cloth. The cloth represents your unique self. With the marker, create your own response to the daily themes:

- I am made . . .
- I am free to . . .
- I am called to . . .

In worship today, we will present these responses as our offering, testifying to the way we live and know God's boundless love.