EVEN MORE **BOUNDLESS**

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Supplemental Resources for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering

Unit 3

This activity works well as a follow up to the Genesis 50:15-21 passage in Session Two (p. 56), or use it however you like!

Artistic Engagement

Explore Art – Boundless Forgiveness – Embroidered Blanket

- Check out the full view of this **amazing blanket** created by Ka Zoua Lee, called *The Village Blanket.* The blanket is housed within the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Through the images she has sewn into this blanket, Ka Zoua Lee is depicting a way of life that she remembers fondly from her time living in a Hmong village in Laos. By the time she was making this blanket, that way of life had been lost through the struggles and displacements brought on by the war in Vietnam. By that point in her life, Ka Zoua Lee was a refugee at a camp in Thailand. The blanket shows people living alongside each other and nature in a peaceful village but it was destined to warm the exhausted bodies of people fleeing from violence and persecution. It was also destined to tell a powerful story about resiliency and the unbreakable spirit of individuals and communities. *Why did Ka Zoua Lee choose to depict these scenes on her blanket?*

Make Art – Boundless Forgiveness – Fabric Prayer Bracelet

Use scrap fabric to make a bracelet that reminds you to pray.

Supplies Needed: scrap fabric, safety pin, scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut or tear strips of fabric so that they are 18-24 inches long and 1-2 inches wide. The wider the fabric strips the thicker your finished bracelet will be.
2. Decide whether you want to try a simple three-stranded braid or something more complex with four or five strands.
3. Group your strands together and push your safety pin through each strand so that they are pinned together on one end. It's often helpful to next pin those strands to the fabric on a chair, bookbag, or even your pants.
4. Start to braid your strands together. (If you're not sure how to braid, look up a tutorial online.)
5. Once you have braided the whole length of your strands, use another safety pin to close off that end.
6. With the help of a friend, place your braided strands over your wrist or ankle and then tie the two ends together. Be careful not to make it too tight or too loose.
7. Cut off the excess ends, and your bracelet is finished!

Next have everyone create a short prayer to use every time they feel their bracelet:

1. Name at least three people who love you.
2. Name at least three other people who you love.
3. Now fill in the blanks of this prayer:
   "Dear God, I am loved by _____, _____, _____, and I have so much love for _____, _____, _____. Thank you for tying us all together! Amen."

What do Prayer Bracelets have to do with Boundless Forgiveness?

When Joseph meets his brothers in Genesis 50, he is encountering a group of refugees. Joseph's brothers aren't fleeing violence and persecution, like Ka Zoua Lee, they are fleeing famine. In today's world, we might call this group of people climate refugees. Their lives had been upended and they left their homes out of fear for their lives. This was not the journey in life they had wanted to take. They did not want to leave their homes with little chance of ever going back. Few people ever do. Do you think, in a way, they took home with them? Did Joseph's brothers not just find a new home but relocate their old home? What really even is a home? Is it a community? What we're getting at is that the story of Joseph and his brothers is as much a story about community as it is about forgiveness. In fact, forgiveness may not be an individual act at all. It might be part of the tapestry of a community. Think of fabric being torn and then joined back together. The original is forever altered but something new is made that brings the pieces together. Think and pray on that for a while.