

Time with Children and Youth

My friend has a rock garden in her backyard. Little moles and chipmunks tunnel underground. They make trails, roads, and hidey-holes in the earth. These tunnels run all through my friend's garden. One day after a heavy rain, she noticed that in several places the ground had collapsed! There were too many tunnels underground!

My friend was concerned about the moles and chipmunk who had lost their tunnels and homes, but very soon she saw them scurrying about. They were building new tunnels and making new improved spaces for safety. Building new trails was not scary for them at all. It was just part of life.

When was there a time in your life when you had to start all over? *(Wait for answer such as new school or house, a big move, or a life-changing event. Children may tell you how they feel about these changes or you may want to ask. If no answers come and no discussion follows, continue.)*

You start again every time you move to another grade in school. Sometimes it's a bit scary, but it also gives you a new teacher and maybe new friends.

When you have to start something again, good things can happen. What might some of them be? *(Some answers might be: you become stronger; you learn something about yourself; the new thing makes you happy.)*

Just like the moles and chipmunks who had to rebuild the tunnels in my friend's rock garden and accepted it as part of their life, we often have to start over. God is always with us during tough times and surrounds us with people who care about us especially during these times: Mom and/or Dad, grandparents, friends, this church family.

The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by The Rev. Dr. Lynda Reid. Lynda is a retired minister of the Presbyterian Church. For many years she was the education consultant for the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario & Bermuda. Lynda enjoys volunteering in her home congregation Knox, Oshawa. She has an enthusiasm for music and her cat soothes her soul.