

Water Children's Lesson



Fast Facts and Figures

- There is the same amount of water on the world today as there was millions of years ago
- Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or undrinkable, 2% is locked in icecaps and only 1% is available for all our needs worldwide
- 75% of the earth is covered in water
- Nearly half of the developing world doesn't have access to safe water
- Nearly 70% of water use worldwide is for agriculture
- In Africa, 16 million people walk at least one kilometre for safe drinking water – and they make this trip at least two times a day
- 1 in 6 people worldwide have no access to clean water
- In developing countries, a child dies from a water related illness every 15 seconds

Facts and Figures from National Geographic, UNICEF and UNESCO



Intro Activity:

Option One – A Long Journey

Purpose: To help children learn the burden of fetching water, one faced by many children around the world

Materials: 15L bucket, numerous smaller buckets, water (NB: this is a great outdoor activity)

Directions: Instruct children to measure 15L of water into a large bucket, and to fill various amounts of water into the smaller buckets. Invite children to then pick up and carry the various sizes and weights of buckets. See how far they can go before they need to put it down or they slosh some of the water out. Ask the children what they think it

would be like to carry that much, or more, water every day for three to four hours

NB – at the end of the game, use the water to water plants, or clean the church! Don't just dump it down the drain!

Option Two – Water Web

Purpose: To help children learn about the difficulties involved in getting clean water, a problem faced by millions of people around the world

Materials: Large ball of yarn

Directions:

Step One: have children form a circle, instruct the children to pass the ball of yarn from child to child around the circle; when it gets to the last child, cut the end of the yarn and stretch it out; talk to the children about the distance the yarn represents; imagine the yarn is water, and discuss how easy it would be to pass water from one person to the next this way

Step Two: have the children stay in the circle; invite the children to toss the ball of yarn to anyone else anywhere else in the circle, saying something nice about that person when they toss it (NB: each child should only get the yarn once), holding on to their section of the yarn; when it gets to the last person, repeat as above (NB: will be large distance; relates to the more difficult journey faced by some people; etc.)

Discussion:

- Which of the two ways was easier?
- Which of the two ways is like getting water from a tap? Which of the two ways is like walking a long distance to get water?
- How did you feel when you saw the different lengths of yarn? (i.e. guilty/sad/discouraged/etc.)

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- How would you feel if you knew you couldn't get fresh water from a tap? How would you feel if you didn't even have running water in your house or city/town?



Story: As the Sun Rises in Mitaboni

As the sun rose in Mitaboni, Kenya, Musimbi stretched and yawned. All she wanted was to roll over and sleep a couple of more hours before she headed off to school, but she knew that couldn't happen. Musimbi got up and stretched her arms high above her head, she looked outside and knew today was going to be another long, dry, hot day. "Good thing it rained last week," Musimbi said to herself. She knew that if it hadn't rained, there wouldn't be any point in getting up and going for water – the well was almost dry! As Musimbi picked up her buckets, she lifted a prayer up to God, "Thank you for the rain Lord! Thank you for the life it brings."

As Musimbi headed out of her village she met up with other children from her class, all of whom were also going to get water. They walked quickly and were quiet for most of the trip, but Musimbi felt good knowing that her friends were with her on this journey.

After an hour and a half, Musimbi finally reached her destination, and joined the line waiting to fill his buckets for the longer journey home. The sun was now up and beating down on the dry ground, and Musimbi knew that if the line didn't move quickly she'd be more than a little late for school!

While waiting in line, Musimbi and her friends began playing some word games to pass the time. After a half hour, Musimbi filled her containers, placed the

yolk, the long pole they hung from over her neck, and began the long trip home. With the sun, heat and extra weight of the water, it was almost two hours before she finally got home. It was now 7:30am and her family was awake and awaiting her return.

Musimbi barely had time to meet with her family before rushing out the door for another long walk to school. "At least today I'll be on time," she said as she hugged her mother good bye.

At school Musimbi finally had time to rest her weary feet. All morning she had trouble focusing on what the teacher was saying, it was so hot and she was so tired! But she did her best to keep up, and was sad when the school day was done.

Musimbi wanted to take her time walking home, but she knew the longer it took her to get home, the longer the line would be to get water, so she ran home to pick up the buckets. In and out of the house in a flash, Musimbi ran and walked all the way back to get water. She was one of the first in line, and only had to wait ten minutes before filling her buckets and walking home.

Tired and sore, it took Musimbi nearly two hours to get the water home to her family. Dinner was waiting for her, and she joined her family for a meal of ugali (a corn dumpling) and stew. After supper Musimbi and her siblings did their chores, then washed and fell into bed. Musimbi was exhausted from getting water, going to school, and all the other chores she did. She knew morning would come soon, and although she dreaded the long water for water – she prayed to God that the water would still be plentiful in the morning.

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Questions:

1. Where does Musimbi live? (*Mitaboni, Kenya*)
2. How long did it take Musimbi to walk to get water for her family? (*an hour and a half*)
3. How long did it take Musimbi to carry the water home? (*two hours*)
4. What time was it when Musimbi got home? (*7:30*)
5. What time do you usually get up for school? (*7:00, 7:30*)
6. Could you imagine having to walk an hour and a half to get water instead of just going to your bathroom sink?
7. Do you think it would be hard to listen and learn in school after getting up at 3:00 in the morning? (*yes – very tired, would want to go to bed, etc.*)
8. Could you imagine having to walk as long as Musimbi did twice a day to get water? (*no – too far, too hot, too much work, like having a tap, etc.*)
9. What can we do to help Musimbi and others like her? (*pray, send money to CBM to help build wells, etc.*)



Bible Application: Isaiah 41: 17-20, God's Gift of Water

Our story today told of the day and the life of Musimbi, a daughter of a poor family in Mitaboni, Kenya, and all the work she does each day just so that her family can have clean water. Water is a word found many times in the Bible, we hear about it when Moses divided the red sea, when Jonah was swallowed by a big fish, when Jesus was baptized, and in many other places.

Let's listen to God's word, and hear what He has to say about His gift of water:

¹⁷ "The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. ¹⁸ I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. ¹⁹ I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, ²⁰ so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it." (NIV)

1. Who searches for water and finds none? (*the poor and needy*)
2. What will God not do? (*forsake them*)
3. What will God do? (*make rivers flow, create springs in the valleys, turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs; will get water for them*)
4. Why will God do this? (*so that they will know the Lord*)
5. How can we help God? (*treat water like the special gift it is, not waste it; raise funds for the poor so they can have their promised water; educate others about the gift of water*)
6. What changes can you make in your life to help make a difference in the lives of many? (*turn off the tap when brushing teeth, take shorter showers, keep water in the fridge instead of running the tap for cold water, not water the grass, fix leaking faucets*)



A Water Quiz

By raising your hands, show me who here has ever heard the words "Developing Country," or "Developing World." Thank you. A "Developing Country" is a country with a low standard of living. That means it is a country where many people are out of work and poor, and

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that these people don't have access to many basic needs, such as safe water, food and education.

We here in Canada are very lucky aren't we? We get to go to school for free. We have doctors to take care of us. And, when we're thirsty, all we have to do is turn on a tap!

We're going to take a quiz together, to see how much we know about water in the developing world. (Read the questions aloud and have children raise their hand when they think it's the right answer)

1. How many people in the world don't have access to clean water?
 - a. **1.3 billion**
 - b. 2.1 billion
 - c. 3.2 billion
2. How many people in the world don't have sanitation facilities?
 - a. 2.1 billion
 - b. 1.2 billion
 - c. **1.7 billion**
3. How many people die each year because they don't have access to safe drinking water?
 - a. 1.2 million
 - b. **2.2 million**
 - c. 3.2 million
4. In countries where water is scarce, how far do you think children and women have to walk to get water each day?
 - a. An average of 1km
 - b. An average of 3 km
 - c. **An average of 6 km**

This quiz has helped to teach us a lot hasn't it? We've learned how many people in our world don't have access to water, and, at least for me, it's shown me how lucky we are that we have water at our fingertips at every tap. Let's say a prayer together, thanking God for the gift of water...

Dear God, thank you for your gift of water. We know that we are lucky, that we can get safe water just by going to a tap. Please help us to be mindful of the value of water, that we don't let water run down the drain, but use it wisely. Help us to remain mindful of all the others who don't have access to clean water, please keep them safe and healthy, and help the rest of us work towards helping them have access to safe water too. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Filling in the Water GAP: Give, Act, Pray

This lesson is geared towards helping children and their families learn more about water issues in our world. It provides practical actions that children can do to help conserve water, and provides fundraising ideas. In order to reinforce this lesson on water, this section allows children to fill in the water GAP: GIVE to others, ACT differently, and PRAY for the issues.

GIVE: A great way to prevent the spread of diseases is to wash your hands. In developing countries, where water is scarce, this isn't always an option. Give a quarter (\$0.25) for every time you wash your hands in a day
ACT: With your family, make a list of all the ways you use water in a week (i.e. washing hands, drinking, laundry, bathing, etc.). Talk about how different your life would be in your home if you didn't have clean water in your house. Try to think of ways you and your family can work towards water conservation.

PRAY: 80% of all illness in the developing world are water-related. Pray for those living and working in these communities, to find local and sustainable ways to provide clean water for all. Pray for The Sharing Way (TSW) and the various water projects TSW is working on (to learn more about TSW

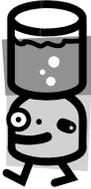
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and these projects visit www.thesharingway.org)

GIVE: Did you know that 60% of Canada's water is used to generate power? That accounts for a lot of water! Give \$0.10 for each electrical appliance in your home.

ACT: Invite the children to put an extra glass of water at their table at supper to remind them of all those who did not have clean water today (then either drink the water, give it to a pet, or water a plant with it after supper – we don't want to waste this precious gift!)

PRAY: Did you know that water use is increasing twice as fast as the world's population, mainly due to industry and agriculture? Pray for all of our God's people around the world, and especially those working with our brothers and sisters in Christ in developing countries – that they may find ways to ensure that there is enough water for everyone!



Craft: Water Bottle Sling

Here in Canada we have an abundance of water. To help us remain mindful of the need of water in other parts of the world, this craft results in a water bottle carrier, allowing children to refill their plastic

water bottles, instead of always buying new ones.

Materials:

- Clear nail polish
- 3-4 feet of cotton belt webbing (found in fabric stores) per child
- 1 rubber O-ring – available in the plumbing section of a hardware store (bring a bottle in with you to check to make sure it fits)
- 2 no-sew dungaree buttons (found in fabric stores) per child

Directions:

1. Brush clear nail polish on both ends of webbing to prevent fraying
2. Feed 2-3 inches of the webbing through the O-ring, and secure with the button
3. Repeat step two for the other end, be careful not to twist the strap prior to securing the button
4. Slip the O-rings over the neck of the bottle



Quiet Activities:

- **Word Scramble**
- **Word Search**

Please see attached handouts