

Thirsting for Justice

By Stacia McDermott



As we thirst for the risen Christ, we are reminded that many in our world go thirsty every day. Act globally as a family to help those who go without our most basic necessity: water.

For

Teen Family

Season

Easter season

Needed

Computer, pens, paper, Bible, *Water Quiz* handout

Prepare in Advance

- Video clip: <http://vimeo.com/22859197>
- Copy of *Water Quiz* handout for each family member
- Bible turned to Acts 2:1-21
- Quick access to <http://thewaterproject.org/>

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

God of justice, we gather as a family to think about our brothers and sisters in need. You call us to act beyond borders and see those who go without the most basic necessities. Use our hands, hearts, and voices as we work to raise money and hope for those who do not have clean drinking water. Help us remember to always live with a spirit of gratitude. Amen.

2. Give family members a few minutes to complete the *Water Quiz*.
3. Watch video clip about efforts people make to get clean water daily. Use the following questions for discussion:
 - What stuck out to you while watching this video?
 - Name some ways you take for granted your easy access to water.
 - Why does our faith call us to help others?



4. Take time as a family to navigate through The Water Project website, deciding how you want to work to raise money (as a family, with your school/workplace, and/or your community). You can make the fundraising efforts as big or little as you choose. Write out your plan of action (who will do what, when, how, etc.).
5. Close your time together by reading the prayer* aloud:

Heavenly Father
we meet together
your people
one people
your family
bound together
with the woven chord
that binds all of creation together
fashioned from your love.
Brothers and sisters
children together
One family in fellowship
with you, its Heavenly Father.
May this be a time of joy
a time for growing
a time for strengthening
a time for loving
family time
quality time
together.

* http://www.faithandworship.com/creation_prayers.htm

Additional Ideas

- Make a family commitment to be more aware of water use, such as turning off the water while brushing your teeth, reducing the length of your shower, don't buy bottled water, when it's yellow let it mellow, etc.
- Look at your water bill to see how much water you consume monthly and try to reduce it.
- Watch the movie "Blue Gold: World Water Wars."
- Challenge your fundraising efforts by taking it into your school and workplace.
- Find out how your faith community cares for creation.
- Read the book "Bottlemania" by Elizabeth Royte.



Water Quiz

How many people go without access to clean drinking water?

- A. 100,000
- B. 1 million
- C. 1 billion
- D. 100 billion

In what ways does not having clean drinking water effect people?

- A. You can't grow food
- B. You can't stay healthy
- C. You can't build housing
- D. You can't stay in school/keep working
- E. All of the above

What is the percentage of illness that is related to poor water and sanitation conditions in developing countries?

- A. 20 %
- B. 40%
- C. 60%
- D. 80%

How many deaths under the age of 5 worldwide are related to water-related illness?

- A. 1 out of 10
- B. 1 out of 8
- C. 1 out of 5
- D. 1 out of 3

In one day the average American residence uses how many gallons of water?

- A. 20
- B. 50
- C. 80
- D. 100

In sub-Saharan Africa the average family uses how many gallons of water a day?

- A. 2
- B. 10
- C. 25
- D. 40



Answer Key

How many people go without access to clean drinking water?

- E. 100,000
- F. 1 million
- G. 1 billion
- H. 100 billion

In what ways does not having clean drinking water effect people?

- F. You can't grow food
- G. You can't stay healthy
- H. You can't build housing
- I. You can't stay in school/keep working
- J. All of the above

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