



Suvarna's Story

India

● MATERIALS...

Four large empty cups. Mark one cup "Drinking," one cup "Plants," one cup "Cooking," and one cup "Bathing." Fill two additional large cups with water, and provide enough small cups for all the children. Place the four large empty cups near the children and the two filled cups on the other side of the room. If you have a lot of children, you may need to double or triple the numbers of large cups.

● FACT...

About 1.1 billion people do not have access to a clean, safe water supply. Nearly half of the world's population does not have access to bathrooms. Without bathrooms and the water that is needed to keep people healthy, communities are further exposed to disease. The diseases related to unsafe water and lack of sanitation cause the death of a child every fifteen seconds.

● STORY...

My name is Suvarna. I am eleven years old and I live in India. My father and mother work on the farm of our village leader. There are many days when we do not have enough water and getting water is not easy. Water tanker trucks are supposed to come to our village two times a week but sometimes they do not come. My parents and I have to walk up to three miles to bring water to our home. My father takes his bicycle to load water vessels on both sides of the back wheel. Water is needed for drinking, cooking, bathing, and for the plants

on the farm. Often we do not bathe when there is less water at home. There are times when my mother cannot cook any food because there is no water. We sometimes eat dry rice because we didn't have enough water. My parents must work to earn money. But if they want water, they have to take a day off of work to go get water. Sometime we become sick and can't go to school or work. I feel bad for my parents. They have many problems to solve, but not having water is adding to their worries. I wonder if there will ever be an end to it?

● REFLECTION...

Find India on the map or globe. What are your thoughts about this story? How is life for Suvarna the same or different from your life?

Explain that there are four cups that need filling to have enough water for drinking, planting, cooking, and bathing. Invite the children to collect water from the filled cups and then make decisions as to where they will use their water. How did you decide where to use the water? What would life be like if you had to make these decisions every day?

● RESPONSE...

Let's pray for Suvarna who is sad because of the lack of water. How might our offering help Suvarna? Remember Suvarna's family in your prayers this week and thank God that you are able to help through your prayers and giving. Let's also thank God for the clean water we have.

