



## Juana's Story

United States

### ● MATERIALS...

Long piece of PVC pipe and PVC elbow—attach elbow to one end of the pipe, two pitchers of water, two large bowls, 3-4 large cups, and small cups for each child.

### ● FACT...

Two out of every ten people in the world do not have access to clean water and four out of ten do not have adequate sanitation. Women and children living in the world's poorest communities often spend hours each day walking miles to collect water which is often unsafe for human consumption. Ten million person hours are lost every year by women and children carrying water for long distances. As a result, the health of the women and children may be severely affected. In California alone there are one million people who do not have direct access to clean water.

### ● STORY...

Hello, my name is Juana. I live with my mom and dad in the Central Valley of California. My parents work very hard in the fields but do not earn very much for the work they do. Our home and many of our neighbors no longer have running water. The drought has dried up the groundwater and our well is dry. I don't have as much time to do my homework because my mother and I go to the nearby fire station to fill buckets to use for washing, bathing, and flushing toilets. We do this every day after school. This water is not drinkable, though, so for drinking and cooking, we have to go buy bottled water. It's very expensive. Our family has to spend more

money for water than people who have it coming directly into their homes. I wish we could afford to dig a new well. But my parents do not make enough money. Sometimes my mom has to work late and then I have to get what water I can for our family at the fire station. Water is very heavy and it takes me many trips.

### ● REFLECTION...

Find California on the map or globe. What do you think life would be like to have to go to the fire station every day to get water and also go to the store to buy water to drink? What do you think would happen if you did not have enough time to get your homework done? Place the elbow end of the pipe higher than the other end. Place one bowl underneath each end of the pipe. Fill the bowl under the elbow end with water. Half the class use paper cups to collect water from the bowl and pour into the elbow where it will run down through the pipe and empty into the other bowl. The other half of the class uses small paper cups to fill a few large cups. Note how much time is saved by having accessible water.

### ● RESPONSE...

Let's pray for Juana as she struggles to get her homework done. Let's pray Juana and her mom will not hurt their backs carrying the heavy water while her father works in the fields. Let's remember to use water wisely and to thank God that we can both pray for and give to help people all over the world so they will have access to clean water.