



Mari Tuji's Story

Ethiopia

● MATERIALS...

Large plastic cups, small paper cups, a large container of water.

Set the container of water on one side of the room and the large cups on another side. A small cup will be given to each child. The large cups should be several times the size of the small cups.

● FACT...

Every child needs water to grow up healthy. If they don't have clean water they will be at home too sick to go to school. They will fall behind in their studies at school and may become so sick they will miss school for several months. The presence of clean, safe water means children can attend school more often.

● STORY...

I am Mari and I grew up using the muddy waters of a nearby river for cooking, cleaning, and drinking. Every morning I would take a five-gallon container down to the river and walk a mile uphill with the water on my back to return home. This took me a long time to go to the river and gather water. Then I would spend the day washing and cooking. But because the water my family and I drank was dirty, we were often sick. Because I had to gather water and I was often sick, I was not able to go to school. Life was very hard.

Many years have passed. I am older and married now. Covenant World Relief came and put a water system in our village. When I had a baby I named her Challa. Challa means "the best" in our language. I named our daughter Challa because of the clean water we now have. I know life will be better for our daughter. Challa will not get sick like I did as a girl and Challa will not have to gather water. Challa will be able to go to school.

● REFLECTION...

Find Ethiopia on a map or globe. What are some of your favorite things to do? Imagine that you cannot do these things unless you gather enough water first.

Have each person take a small cup and stand near the large cups. All large cups must be filled with water using the small cups. Move across the room (without running and walking heel to toe) fill the small cups from the water container and pour this into the big cup (repeat). The class has 2-3 minutes to finish.

How does it feel not to be able to finish? How do you think Mari felt every day when she did not have enough time left to go to school or play because she had to gather water?

● RESPONSE...

How might we pray for people like Mari? What can we be thankful for? How might we help people like Mari? With whom might we share Mari's story?

