



Kaiser's Story

Cameroon

● MATERIALS...

A large plastic tub or storage container filled with a couple of inches of sand and a pitcher of water and small cups of water for each child.

● FACT...

Despite significant progress in the past twenty years, approximately 750 million people—one out of ten people in the world—do not have access to clean water. By the year 2025, half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas. Water-stressed areas are places where there is more demand for water than there is available.

● STORY...

My name is Kaiser and I am ten. I live in Cameroon in the village of Babanki Tungo with my parents and grandmother. Each day I go to school, my parents go to work on the farm, and my four-year-old sister, Dede, stays at home with our grandmother. One day Dede took a gallon jug from the house and went to the river with some of the other children in the village to gather water. Dede stepped into the river to fill the jug, but the water was too shallow by the shore so she walked further out into the river. The current began to tug at her. Had she let go of the water jug and moved back toward shore she would have been okay. But Dede held on tightly to her jug, she didn't want to let go and lose it. Dede knows our family doesn't have a lot of money and the jug was very valuable. She wanted to bring the water back to our grandmother who would need it

for cooking. Dede didn't realize the weight of her small body was not enough to fight the river's undercurrent. It pulled her off her feet as she held onto the jug and it began dragging her deeper and further down the river. The children ran back to the village for help. Grandmother sent out an alarm and many people ran to the river to help Dede. But it was too late. Dede had drown. Every day I cry. I wish I had been there to help my little sister. I wish we had a well and pump so Dede and other children would not have to go to the river to get water. I miss Dede.

● REFLECTION...

Find Cameroon on the map or globe. Why do you think Dede went to the river? I wonder why Dede did not let go of the water jug? What would you have done if you were Dede? Set the container of sand at a slight angle and invite the children to pour their cups of water, one at a time into the high end of the container to create a river. Note how the water changes the sand. After everyone has poured in their cups of water, pour some water from the pitcher to demonstrate further how powerful water can be. Why do you think Kaiser wishes there were a well and a pump in his village?

● RESPONSE...

Let's pray for Kaiser and his family who are sad because Dede died. How might our offering help Kaiser and other children? Remember Kaiser and his family in your prayers this week and thank God that you are able to pray and help make life safer for others through your giving.