



Achaloo's Story

Ethiopia

● MATERIALS...

A pitcher of water and small cups of water for each child. Paper to write a poem.

● FACT...

Clean, safe water will keep thousands of people from dying of diarrhea from unsafe water. Each year more than 840,000 people die from diarrhea as a result of unsafe drinking water and 340,000 of those deaths are children. Improving sanitation and hygiene can reduce these deaths significantly. But none of this can happen without access to clean, safe water.

● STORY...

Hello, my name is Achaloo and I live in Ethiopia. When I was seven, my friends and I had to walk to the stream to get water each day. We also had to walk a long way to get to school. The nearest school was nine miles away. It was difficult to get the water we needed and still walk the nine miles to school and another nine miles home. The government would not build a school nearby unless there was access to clean water. Covenant World Relief (CWR) came and helped us to dig a well and put in a water system so our entire community has access to clean, safe water. The whole town was very thankful and excited when this was finished. We had a great celebration. My friend Mari and I even read a poem.

Once the water was available, the government built us a school. Now Mari and I have been going to school for seven years. We are thankful for CWR because we have

clean water and a school nearby. But there are other villages that still do not have clean water or a school. So we are thankful that CWR is still helping by digging more wells in more villages like ours.

● REFLECTION...

Find Ethiopia on the map or globe. I wonder why the government wouldn't build a school unless there was access to clean water? How long do you think it would take to walk nine miles to school? Achaloo and Mari wrote poems to celebrate access to clean water. Let's write a poem as a class to celebrate our being able to help children like Achaloo and Mari. First let's listen to the sound of water as we pour some into each cup. Let's write what it sounds like. Now let's each look at the water in our cup. Let's write what we see. Now let's taste the water? Let's write how it tastes. Now let's feel the water? Let's write how it feels. Now let's write what it's like to have access to clean water. What do you want to celebrate?

● RESPONSE...

Why do you think Achaloo wishes there were wells in other villages? Let's give thanks for the water Achaloo, and Mari have access to. How might our offering help other children like Achaloo? Let's give thanks to God for being able to provide clean water and access to schools.



Mai's Story

United States

● MATERIALS...

Pitcher or two of clean water; large cups, and a couple of small cups.

● FACT...

From 1900 to 2000 the amount of fresh water used throughout the world has increased at twice the rate of population growth. People living in Asia and Africa with low rainfall and high water use will be most at risk of water stress. This will have severe impact on their lives and livelihood. But even in the United States there are people who do not have regular access to clean water.

● STORY...

My name is Mai, which means bright flower. I live with my mother, father, and two brothers. We are Navajo and live in northwest New Mexico. We don't have a well or even a nearby river, so the only way we can get clean water is through Darlene, the "water lady." Darlene delivers clean water to all of the families in our community. She drives a bright yellow water truck. But, the water lady is only able to deliver water to us once a month. When Darlene comes, my family fills all buckets, bowls, and containers we have with water so we will have enough water until she comes again. We can use only seven gallons of water a day to drink, cook, bathe, and clean because the water lady comes so rarely. The average person in the United States uses about 100 gallons a day. There were times when the water lady was not able

to come because of bad weather. We shared what little water we had with our neighbors. We were thirsty and scared. But finally a few days later Darlene came. I wish we had a well so we could get water when we need it.

● REFLECTION...

Find New Mexico on the map or globe. What do you think life would be like to have to wait for a water truck once a month? Where would your family store the water? What if you didn't have enough water to drink, to shower? Pour water into each large cup and pass one to each student except for two. The last two get a small cup half full. How does it feel to have a half cup of water? How does it feel to have a nice big glass of water? Life is actually like this. Most of us have as much water as we want. But there are some who have only a little.

● RESPONSE...

Let's pray that Mai and her family will not run out of water. Let's give thanks for the fresh water we have and ask God to remind us to use it wisely. Let's also thank God for Covenant World Relief who digs wells and puts in pumps so children and their families can have fresh water. We have discovered that life is not fair. But your offering will help to bring water to children and their families who do not have water.

