



Amy's Story

Kenya

● MATERIALS...

A pitcher of dirty water; a pitcher of clean water; an empty pitcher or bowl, a towel, and a small cup for each child.

● FACT...

The water crisis and lack of toilets and water for hand washing makes life more difficult for families living in poverty. More than 2.2 million people in developing countries, most of them children, die each year from illness which they get from a lack of access to safe drinking water; inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene.

● STORY...

My name is Amy and I live in Kenya. I am nine years old. I used to suffer dehydration from a lack of water, because my mother couldn't afford to boil water. Boiling water with a kerosene stove is very expensive and my mom couldn't afford the fuel. I was always tired, thirsty, and my stomach hurt. My mother told me not to drink the water from school because it was not safe. But I was so thirsty that I did drink it. Then I got very sick. I got a high fever and I was out of school for many, many, days. My mom thought I might die. She got a water filter from Covenant World Relief (CWR) and the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK). I began to drink water from the filter. Now I am well because I get clean purified water in plenty. I don't drink the water

at school. But as soon as I get home I run to the water filter where I can get enough clean water. I am no longer tired, and it's easier to learn, to do my chores, and I even have energy to play with my friends.

● REFLECTION...

Find Kenya on the map or globe. Have you ever been thirsty? What is it like? What happens when someone drinks unsafe water? Do you have other thoughts or questions about this story? A filter can make unsafe water safe. But there are different kind of ways to filter water and not all ways make water safe to drink. When we pour this dirty water through a towel we can see it helps to make the water clean as it drips into the empty pitcher. But even when the water appears to be clean it can still be unsafe. The water from our sinks, like the water in this other pitcher, is filtered so that all the unsafe particles are removed, even those you can't see. Who would like a drink of safe water?

● RESPONSE...

Let's give thanks for the fresh water Amy has access to. Let's also thank God for CWR and the ECCK who provide filters so that children like Amy can have clean, safe water. Amy and the other children we have been reading about thank you for your prayers and your offering that helps them to have clean, safe drinking water.

