

KIDS HELPING KIDS:
CLEAN WATER



Loving Our Neighbor as Ourselves...

Mark 12:31

A child dies every twenty seconds because of a lack of access to clean water and sanitation. This is a world-wide problem and the need is so great it can seem overwhelming. But there is a way for the children in your church to make a significant difference across the globe.

Kids Helping Kids enables us to partner with children on their spiritual journey to:

- fulfill Christ's commandment to love God and our neighbor
- foster a larger kingdom view
- offer an opportunity to serve and obey God
- provide a shared faith experience to build community

Kids Helping Kids has enabled children in United States and Canada to offer hope and opportunity to children in some of the world's most destitute places. The lives of children in these areas are marked by severe poverty and lack of access to clean water.

How can the children in your church help?

This booklet contains the stories of twelve children. There are millions more, but it is our hope that as we give the powerless voice, their stories will help shape the lives of the children in your care.

Examples of ways your gift will make a difference:

- Kenya—\$20 one water filter
- Honduras—\$12,700 construction and placement of distribution tank for water system; \$145 construction

of a new toilet

- Haiti—\$15,000 piping fresh water from a nearby town into a community that does not have access
- India—\$1,100 drilling of new bore well; \$250 construction of new water recharging unit to increase water availability
- Cameroon—\$2,000 construction of one well; \$50 bio sand filter; \$20 drip irrigation kit

Before taking an offering with the children each week, please read one of the stories and take some time to pray for the children. In this way, your children will connect with the bigger picture of God's kingdom and provide a tangible reflection of Christ's light in the world.

Gifts should be made out to:
"Kids Helping Kids: Clean Water"

Mail to:
The Evangelical Covenant Church,
Attn: Covenant World Relief
8303 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631

Thank you for joining us this year in providing children hope for a brighter future. The Kids Helping Kids: Clean Water curriculum is ©2015 Evangelical Covenant Church. Permission granted to reproduce for local church use only.

Questions? Email CWR@covchurch.org

To order more of the Kids Helping Kids resources (maps, prayer cards, booklets, and posters) are available at: CovChurch.org/KidsHelpingKids



Creative Ideas for Helping Others

For many years children in North America have thought of some creative ways to raise money and pray in order to help children around the world. Here are some ideas that you may wish to pass along to the children in your ministry. They may choose to do these on their own, with their family, or with friends.

● ACTIVITIES

Bible reading: Children find sponsors to give money for each chapter or book of the Bible read.

Challenge: Children challenge an adult class or small group(s) to match their offering.

Neighborhood fair: Children set up a neighborhood fair with a variety of games, shows, and food.

Odd jobs: Children, with the supervision of an adult, work in teams to clean up yards, garages, and basements. They donate the money they collect to the children's service project.

Reading marathon: Children find people to sponsor them for each book read.

Recycling: Children and families gather recyclables and turn them in for money.

Lemonade and Brownie Stand: Children, with adult supervision, sell lemonade and brownies made with fair-trade chocolate.

● PRAYER IDEAS

- 1) Spend some time during each ministry gathering to pray for the refugee children.
- 2) Encourage a child to pray for refugee children during the worship service.
- 3) Make prayer journals for children and families to use at home.
- 4) Make a bracelet as a reminder to pray daily or print a set of prayer cards for each child.

We hope these ideas will inspire the creativity of the children in your church. We would love to hear about how the children in your church use these or other ideas. Please send your stories to christian.formation@covchurch.org

Thank you for partnering with us in ministering to children all over the world and especially for your ministry to the children in your church.





Suvarna's Story

India

● MATERIALS...

Four large empty cups. Mark one cup "Drinking," one cup "Plants," one cup "Cooking," and one cup "Bathing." Fill two additional large cups with water, and provide enough small cups for all the children. Place the four large empty cups near the children and the two filled cups on the other side of the room. If you have a lot of children, you may need to double or triple the numbers of large cups.

● FACT...

About 1.1 billion people do not have access to a clean, safe water supply. Nearly half of the world's population does not have access to bathrooms. Without bathrooms and the water that is needed to keep people healthy, communities are further exposed to disease. The diseases related to unsafe water and lack of sanitation cause the death of a child every fifteen seconds.

● STORY...

My name is Suvarna. I am eleven years old and I live in India. My father and mother work on the farm of our village leader. There are many days when we do not have enough water and getting water is not easy. Water tanker trucks are supposed to come to our village two times a week but sometimes they do not come. My parents and I have to walk up to three miles to bring water to our home. My father takes his bicycle to load water vessels on both sides of the back wheel. Water is needed for drinking, cooking, bathing, and for the plants

on the farm. Often we do not bathe when there is less water at home. There are times when my mother cannot cook any food because there is no water. We sometimes eat dry rice because we didn't have enough water. My parents must work to earn money. But if they want water, they have to take a day off of work to go get water. Sometime we become sick and can't go to school or work. I feel bad for my parents. They have many problems to solve, but not having water is adding to their worries. I wonder if there will ever be an end to it?

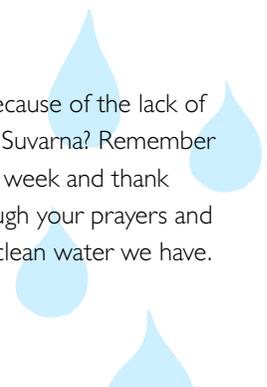
● REFLECTION...

Find India on the map or globe. What are your thoughts about this story? How is life for Suvarna the same or different from your life?

Explain that there are four cups that need filling to have enough water for drinking, planting, cooking, and bathing. Invite the children to collect water from the filled cups and then make decisions as to where they will use their water. How did you decide where to use the water? What would life be like if you had to make these decisions every day?

● RESPONSE...

Let's pray for Suvarna who is sad because of the lack of water. How might our offering help Suvarna? Remember Suvarna's family in your prayers this week and thank God that you are able to help through your prayers and giving. Let's also thank God for the clean water we have.





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.



James's Story

Kenya

● MATERIALS...

Paper, markers, crayons, or pencils.

● FACT...

The water filters used by the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya has two parts. The outer part is a plastic bucket. Inside the plastic bucket is a clay pot treated with silver, which is positively charged. Bacteria, which can make us sick, are negatively charged. When impure water goes through the clay pot, the positively charged silver destroys the germs and bacteria. The water in the bucket is clean. It is free from germs and bacteria and safe for drinking and cooking.

● STORY...

My name is James. I am seven. I live in Kitengela, Kenya. My friends and I go to church. One day I became sick with cholera because of drinking impure water. I threw up, I had diarrhea, and my stomach hurt. I was so sick that I had to go to a hospital. Even with medicine it took many days to feel well again. My family does not have a lot of money so going to the hospital is a great expense to us. Now I know to drink only purified water, which they have at the church for us. My friends and I like to drink water at Sunday school. We always look forward to drinking the pure sweet water. My family and I are

doing better now because the church also provided a water filter for our home. I'm thankful for Jesus and the church. I'm thankful to have pure water at church and at home.

● REFLECTION...

Find Kenya on the map. Kitengela is near Nairobi. Draw a picture of what you think the filter, the hospital, or church looks like. What are your thoughts about James's story? Do you have any questions about the story? Why is clean water important? What would it be like for you not to have clean water?

● RESPONSE...

Here are three ways we can help children like James. First we can pray. Let's thank God that James is okay and thank God for the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya and for their ministry of providing clean water. Second, we can give an offering so other's like James can also have clean pure water to drink. Third, we might consider challenging an adult class or group to match our offering so we can send twice as much to the church in Kenya.





Maria's Story

Honduras

● MATERIALS...

Pipe cleaners, a small bowl of water, and blocks. The blocks represent houses and the bowl of water the water source. The class must use their pipe cleaners to connect the water source to each house.

● FACT...

Covenant World Relief (CWR) is helping communities all around the world to have access to clean water. They work with the people in the community by providing materials and education so that the people can build their own clean-water system. In this way, the people in the community are helping each other and they also then know how to repair the water system.

● STORY...

Hello, I am Maria. I am eight years old and live in Los Limones, Honduras. I used to walk an hour each day to the river to get water for my family and another hour carrying the heavy water home. I had to do this twice a day. Once I got the water home I spent the rest of the day washing clothes. We used this same water for drinking. Often this water made my family and I sick. CWR came to our village and saw we did not have clean water. They worked with the people in the village to drill a well and build seven miles of pipes. My family and fifty-five other families now have a water tap and a toilet right in our home! Now my family and I have clean water. I don't get sick like I used to and I no longer have

to walk for hours gathering water. For the first time I can now go to school and I even have a little time to play with my friends from church.

● REFLECTION...

Find Honduras on the map. What are your thoughts about this story?

Now each person take one or two pipe cleaners. We must figure out way to connect the pipe cleaners in order to connect each house (block) to the water source. What did you like about this exercise? What was hard? How does doing this activity with the pipe cleaners relate to Maria's story?

● RESPONSE...

Maria and her family are among the fortunate ones who now have water. But there are many children and families who do not yet have access to clean water in their homes. The offering you give helps families like Maria's. Let's pray for Maria and her family and also pray for the children and families who don't yet have clean water.





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...

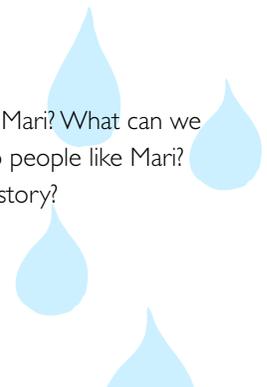
Find Ethiopia on a map or globe. What are some of your favorite things to do? Imagine that you cannot do these things unless you gather enough water first.

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?





Micheline's Story

Haiti

● MATERIALS...

Access to a sink for hand washing or two gallons of water.

● FACT...

Covenant World Relief (CWR) is helping bring clean water to communities in Haiti. After the earthquake in 2010, much of the water system was destroyed. Pipes collapsed and pumps were destroyed. In times of crisis, CWR provides water immediately to keep people alive. Once the crisis ends, CWR works to help restore the structures that were destroyed, including wells and water pumps.

● STORY...

My name is Micheline and I am ten years old. I live in Haiti. In 2010 when I was just five years old, a terrible earthquake struck Haiti. Many people died or were badly injured. The water pipes and wells were broken and there was no clean water. My family and others had to drink dirty water and we became very sick. Some people even died. CWR sent in water trucks to help. The clean water in the trucks helped us feel better and kept us from getting sick. But the water trucks were expensive and could not come forever. That's why CWR drilled wells and put in hand pumps. We live near the hospital where there is a new well. I go to the pump

each day to get water for my family. I fill a big red bucket and carry it home on my head. I do this several times a day but I don't mind because it's closer than the river and the water is clean.

● REFLECTION...

Find Haiti on the map or globe. What are your thoughts about this story?

Now invite the children to wash their hands at a sink. Capture the water in a bowl for one or two children. Or ask: How much water do you think you use to wash your hands? Look at the two gallons of water. Each time we wash our hands we use 1-2 gallons of water. How many times do you think Micheline would have to fill her bucket just so her family can wash their hands? What else do we use water for?

● RESPONSE...

Micheline and her family are thankful to have access to clean water. But there are many children and families who do not have clean water because of a disaster. The offering you give to CWR helps families like Micheline's. Let's pray for Micheline and her family. Let's also pray for the children and families who don't have clean water because of a disaster.





Abdul's Story

India

● MATERIALS...

A clear pitcher of water covered with cellophane, a pitcher or bottle of clean water that is only $\frac{1}{4}$ full, and two full pitchers or bottles of dirty water, small cups and six large cups. Set the pitcher that is covered near the children along with the six large cups, and the other water containers on the other side of the room.

● FACT...

Covenant World Relief (CWR) is working with the Hindustani Covenant Church in India to bring clean water to villages. They do this by drilling wells and installing hand pumps. This enables villagers to get water every day, rather than wait for water tanker trucks that only come a couple of times a week. It also gives families more clean water than they can get now and enables children to attend school rather than have to gather water from the tanker trucks.

● STORY...

I am Abdul. I am twelve and I live in India. I live with my parents and my brother and sister. I am the oldest child. My parents get a meal if they work for the day. But they have very little money to pay for clothes or additional food for the family. We do not have access to water except for the two days per week a water tanker truck comes to our village. My parents cannot stop going to work for those days to collect water. So I have to stop going to school and collect water for the family. I miss two days of school every week while many of my classmates go every day. This is very hard because I am not able to keep up with my studies. Some of my

classmates make fun of me for falling behind and for not taking a bath regularly even though we do not have enough water to do so. Getting enough water from the water tanker truck is difficult. As the trucks arrive in the village, every one rushes to the them with all of their water buckets. Often people get angry and yell at each other. I wait, trying to stay away from the trouble and sometimes when I get to the truck there is not enough water. When that happens my family and I often become sick. I wish there was a pump in our village. Then I could get the water my family needs and still be able to go to school.

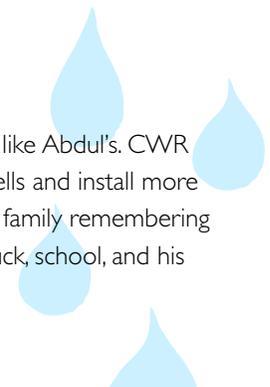
● REFLECTION...

Find India on the map or globe. What are your thoughts about this story?

Hand each person a small cup. Explain that they cannot use the water that is covered but will need to go get the water on the other side of the room. They must try to fill all six cups. Ask: How does it feel not to be able to get to all the clean water? How is this like the story today? How did you decide what to do about the amount of water you needed when there was not enough clean water to meet the need of filling the cups? How is this like the story today?

● RESPONSE...

The offering you give helps families like Abdul's. CWR will use the money to drill more wells and install more pumps. Let's pray for Abdul and his family remembering his struggles at the water tanker truck, school, and his families sickness.





Sarah's Story

A Congolese Refugee Living in Kenya

● MATERIALS...

Three bottles of water—one clean, one dirty, and one that appears clean but has a black dot on the bottom of the bottle.

● FACT...

In partnership with Covenant World Relief (CWR), the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK) has been providing water filters to the residents of Kitengela, a community near Nairobi. Water filters make the water safe and clean for drinking and cooking. By drinking the safe water, children are protected from diseases such as typhoid, diarrhea, and cholera. These illnesses can make children sick for many months. Some children even die from these illnesses.

● STORY...

My name is Sarah, and I'm ten years old. After my father died in Congo, my family and I fled to Kitengela, Kenya. We are now safe and live in a house. One day I became ill with typhoid, because the water I drank was not clean. I had a fever of 104° F. I was weak. I had bad stomach pains and a constant headache. I was able to get medicine, but it took three months to get well. During that time I could not play with my friends or go to school. My mom was very worried about me and spent a lot of time taking care of me.

To keep from getting sick again, the ECCK gave us a water filter that makes the water clean. When my brother, sister, and I get home from school we rush to the water filter and dispenser to quench our thirst. We cannot drink water at school because it is not treated

and is unsafe for drinking and I don't want to get sick again. We are grateful to those who give money to the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya's water project with CWR because now we have clean water to drink.

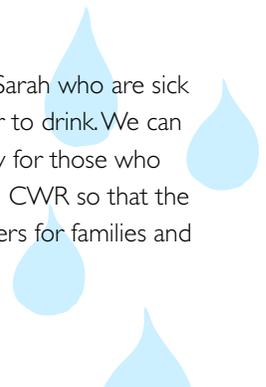
● REFLECTION...

Look at the three bottles of water. Which would you rather drink? What do you think would happen if you drank the dirty water? What if your water at school was like this dirty water? What if the water looked clean, but was really dirty? Look for the bottle with the black dot on the bottom. Even though this water looks clean, in Kenya sometimes the water can actually carry sickness. We are lucky to have access to clean water where we live and that we don't have to worry about getting sick from our water.

Look at the map and find the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya. What would it be like to not drink the water at school? What are some of your favorite things to do with your friends? Imagine what it would be like to be so sick you could not play with your friends or go to school for three months. Fortunately, the ECCK is helping by giving families water filters that make the water clean and safe for drinking.

● RESPONSE...

There are many other children like Sarah who are sick because they don't have clean water to drink. We can help children like Sarah. We can pray for those who are ill and we can give an offering to CWR so that the ECCK can purchase more water filters for families and children like Sarah.





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.



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.





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.