

Living Water

Summary: this is an approximately a _-hour hands-on message to teach children about water problems in many countries and how CRWRC works with poor communities to resolve water contaminations. It has been used successfully with kids from the 1st to 8th grade. Adults in attendance will also appreciate the presentation.

Needed Supplies: water bucket (5 gallon is great, smaller will work); a towel for drying hands; socks, shirt or other article of clothing to be “washed”; a plastic pig or cow or both; a drinking cup, and water.

Presentation

Begin by talking about the importance of water for us. People can live for weeks without food, but only a few days without water. Our bodies are even made up of 80% water. We use water to cook, bath, wash things and to drink. Jesus even used the importance of water in talking about what he offers to us. In talking to the Samaritan woman at the well he said, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:13-14).

Ask the kids where they get water. Most will have easy access faucets in their homes.

Talk with the group about where millions of people around the world get their water. In many cases, the water is obtained by walking long distances with buckets to get it from the rivers, streams or springs.

Imagine with the group that the water in the bucket is a river where people find all their water. Explain that you are going to use the water just like many people use the water.

Ask for a volunteer. Select a child to come forward and remind the group that many people need to use rivers for taking a bath. Ask the child to wash his/her hands in the bucket of water (representing a full bath). Ask for another volunteer, this time to wash the socks or other articles of clothing in the bucket, to show that the river is used for this purpose. It may be good to have a second empty bucket handy for the wet clothes when the washing is done. A third volunteer is asked to come forward to splash the plastic pig or cow in the “river” to show how the animals use the water as well. A fourth and final volunteer is now asked to come up, given a cup and told that he/she can drink from the water. Tell the volunteer that drinking the water is not necessary. The goal is to make a point about the contamination of the water that millions of people around the world drink everyday. Many children get sick and babies die.

Statistics can be offered if this is helpful. Such as 34,000 people die everyday from disease that are the result of dirty water.

CRWRC ministries work with communities to reduce the problem. These could be digging wells; capping mountain springs or introducing water filters.