****

**greenchurches.ca**

Water for Life

*An activity to raise awareness about water, near World Water Day March 22nd*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Goal** | This activity targets the axis of education. In a climate that encourages discussion, members of the faith community learn about issues related to drinking water. |
| **duration** | 1 hour 30 minutes |
| **Equipment** | ✓        10 bottles of 1L or 2L  ✓        Posters for the continents  ✓        Calculator  ✓        Water pitchers  ✓        a measuring cup  ✓        1 large clear glass  ✓        plastic glasses  ✓        different posters  ✓        table  ✓        projector  ✓        notebook  ✓        USB key  ✓        slideshow ( *Powerpoint* ) on USB key  ✓        music track on CD  ✓        Ashes |
| **Suggested places** | Large group in a church hall and subgroups in smaller rooms. |

Time of the year   : It might be interesting to do this activity near March 22nd, World Water Day.

**Introduction** **(30 minutes)**

We all know that water is important in our daily lives. It is also important in stories from the Bible.

Why do you think water is important ?

(drinking water, health, washing dishes, washing clothes, water garden ...)

Do we use a lot? What use is -on?

Is water used in the same way in all countries?

Is water available in equal quantities in all countries?

Let's do a little experiment and then when you go back to your team s with your leaders, you can talk!

2. Activity with glasses of water

Table : the distribution of drinking water in the world

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | % of inhabitants | % of inhabitants with access to drinking water |
| North America | 4.9 | 9.5 / 10 |
| Central and South America | 8.6 | 7/10 |
| Europe | 10.3 | 9.5 / 10 |
| Asia | 59.9 | 7/10 |
| Africa | 15.7 | 3/10 |
| Oceania | 0.5 | 9.5 / 10 |

1. Separate the participants into 6 groups and make them sit in groups (in proportion of the world population)

For example, for 40 young people   :

Team North America : 2 people

Team Central and South America : 4 people

Team Europe : 4 people

Team Asia: 24 people

Team Africa: 6 people

Team Oceania: 1 people

1. Give a plastic cup to everyone

1. Show them the total global water distribution

97% = non-potable water

3% = drinking water

Take 10 bottles of 1L of water

From a bottle, pour 1½ t (375 mL) into a large clear glass.

This represents all the drinking water available to every human on this planet (7 billion).

And it is not distributed equitably over the entire surface of the earth.

1. Divide the cup and a half of water among the 40 young people, according to the following model   :

Team North America   : 2 people

Team Central and South America   : 3 people

Team Europe   : 4 people

Asia Team   : 17 people

Africa Team   : 1 person

Oceania Team   : 1 person

1. Make the 17 people from Asia come forward

Put ashes in the glasses of 11 people.

This represents people in Asia who do not have access to clean water (either treated or in a protected well)

We can have colourful posters on access to drinking water and the distribution of the world's population.

**Discussion (30 minutes)**

Back in small groups

Small group discussion

How did this make you feel?

Is the water distribution fair or not ?

Why ?

Can we do something?

You are part of a continent where the vast majority of people have access to safe drinking water and quality.

What do you think ?

As a Christian, can you help?

How?

For example, we can pay attention to how we use water.

What are the possible ways to reduce our water consumption?

**CELEBRATION**

30 minutes

⮚        Song -  *Your Kingdom Come*

According to the gospels, water was important to Jesus. He has already stated : “*Whoever gives a glass of fresh water to one of these little ones as a disciple, in truth, I tell you, he will not lose his reward."* (Matthew 10, 42)

When Jesus was thirsty in Samaria (John 4: 1-30) , he asked a woman to give him something to drink. Despite their racism and prejudices at the outset, the need to share water allowed them to start discussion existential questions.

On the cross (John 19:28), he said,   “I am thirsty!”   And yet they brought him vinegar!

**John the Baptist (Mark 1: 4-5)**

John the Baptist was in the desert proclaiming a baptism of conversion for the forgiveness of sins. All the land of Judea and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem went to him; they were baptized by him in the Jourdan in confessing their sins.

**The water of the rock (Exodus 17: 3-7)**

*There, the people were thirsty;* *The people murmured against Moses: "Why then," said he, "did you bring us up from Egypt?* *To let me die of thirst, me, my sons and my flocks?* *Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people?* *A little bit, they will stone me.* *The LORD said to Moses, "Go before the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you.the stick of which you hit the river, take it in hand and go.* *I'll stand in front of you here on the rock - in Horeb.* *You will strike the rock, water will come out of it, and the people will drink.* *Moses did so in the eyes of the elders of Israel.*

*He called this place the name of Massa and Meribah - Trial and Quarrel - because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, "Is the LORD among us , Yes or no ?* *"*

**God gives water to Hagar and his child (Genesis 21: 14-20)**

[Hagar] went wandering in the wilderness of Beer-sheva. When the water was exhausted, she threw the child under one of the shrubs. Then she went to sit apart, at the distance of an arc range. She said indeed: "That I do not attend the death of the child! Sitting aside, she raised her voice and cried. God heard the boy's voice, and from heaven the angel of God called Hagar. He said to her, "What have you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, because God has heard the boy's voice, where he is. Get up ! Raise the child and hold him by the hand, because of him I will make a great nation. "God opened her eyes and she saw a well with water. She went to fill the bottle and she made the wine drink . God was with the boy who grew up and lived in the desert

**God is watering his people** **(Isaiah 43, 19-20)**

Behold, I will do something new, about to arrive: will you not know it? I will put a way in the wilderness, And rivers in solitude.

The beasts of the field will glorify me, the jackals and the ostriches, Because I have put waters in the desert, Rivers in solitude, To water my people, my chosen.

**Universal prayers**   :

Pour the "dirty" water on a rim of a transparent jug, and put a large dish (or tray) under this jug to receive the water overflowing. With each intention, pour clean water into the dirty water to gradually dilute the dirty water and make it cleaner. (It's a bit of an image of grace that "overflows our cup")

*No need to add a response to these prayers, so people focus on the gesture one by one.*

1. On this beautiful day, we all pray to you Lord. Open our hearts to your Word.

1. We ask you us to be like this water   : a sign of renewal.

1. Water is a source of life. It cleans the impurities. With the New Water, that of our baptism, let it wash us from what is less good.

1. Water is watering those who are thirsty. However, not everyone has access to this quality water. Open my heart so that I share the water with all humans and open my eyes so that I can recognize what is overconsumption of water.

1. We all have a water   in common: the water of our baptism . Let's take a moment to think of all those who will be baptized.

-           Bring water propre and pronounce the blessing

-           What do we do with old water?

-           Invite kids + parents to sign themselves in this water

Prayer on the water   :

Lord Jesus,

Who came to make us witnesses of your love,

You, who by Eli and Elisha, you make us walk together,

By whom water is source of life and of covenant,

You, by whom Saint Francis, patron saint of ecologists challenges us,

Bless this water so fragile, precious and indispensable.

Give drink to the poor of the earth.   
Relieves women and children   
who go every day to the water point.   
You, the Source of Flowing Water   
give me respect for the water.   
Give me thirst for your word.   
Let me be myself   
water source for others.   
Amen!

[http://www.sjsh.org/43-priere-jesus-source-d-eau-vive.html](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=fr&prev=_t&sl=fr&tl=en&u=http://www.sjsh.org/43-priere-jesus-source-d-eau-vive.html)

1