

Missions Lesson: Clean Water

April, Week 2

By Stacy Nall



Objectives:

- Children will understand the need for clean water in some parts of the world.
- Children will learn what Baptist Global Response and Pure Water, Pure Lovesm are doing to help those in a water crisis.
- Children will learn how providing clean water can lead someone to Christ.



Materials:

- Empty two-liter bottle; cotton, gravel; sand; coffee filters; clear cup filled with clean water; clear cup filled with dirty water; bucket
- Pictures of clay pot filters (printed from web site)

OPTIONAL: buckets, cups, water (for relay race)

Preparation:

Prepare to make a water filter out of a clear, two-liter bottle. (Be sure to remove the label.) Cut off the top half of the bottle. Take the cap off.

Procedures:

1. Show children the cups of clean and dirty water. Ask: *“Which one would you rather drink? Why would it be a bad idea to drink the dirty water?”* (could make you sick)
2. Explain that you will make a water filter. Turn the top half of the bottle upside down. Ask a volunteer to put cotton in the mouth of the bottle. Ask other volunteers to help place gravel, then sand, then coffee filters or cotton. Place the bottom half of the bottle in a bucket. Hold the top half over the bottom half. Ask a volunteer to pour the cup of dirty water slowly into the top half of the filter. Show the water in the bottom of the filter. Say: *Even though the water looks cleaner, it still wouldn't be good to drink.*

3. Play a water facts game. Explain that kids will answer multiple choice questions by making the shape of an "A", "B", or "C" with their fingers.

Read the following statements. Correct answers are underlined.

- About A-500; B-1 million; or C-3.4 million people die each year from water related diseases.
- More than A-3 million; B-2 million; or C-780 million people lack access to clean people. (That's 1 in 9 people.)
- An American taking an A-5 minute; B-30 second; or C-2 minute shower uses more water than a person in a poor city uses in a whole day!
- Women all over the world spend A-3 hours; B-200 million hours; or C-50 hours a day collecting water. (This includes all of the women in the world for each day. Two days would be 400 million hours, and so forth.)

4. Say: *Sometimes people have no choice but to drink the dirty water. How can people who have dirty water get clean water?*

Explain: Pure Water, Pure Love provides water filters to missionaries and some villagers. Baptist Global Response provides clay pot water filters for families with dirty water. (Show clay pot filter pictures.) A filter is either given or sold at a very low cost. Missionaries will come back to visit the families 3 or 4 times to check on the filters. When they visit, they tell the family Bible stories. While clean water is important, Jesus said the water he gives is even more important. (Read or have a volunteer read John 4:7-15.) Missionaries help people understand their need for Jesus, the Living Water.

5. Ask children for ideas about how to pray for people who need clean water. Ask volunteers to pray sentence prayers.

OPTIONAL RELAY:

Say: Many young girls and women in poor countries have to hike miles to get the water they need for each day. Some carry buckets of water on their heads all to the way home.

1. Play this game outside. Divide kids into relay teams. Place a cup and a full bucket of water by each team. Place an empty bucket for each team on the opposite side of the field.
2. At your signal, the first player on each team fills a cup of water and places it on his or her head and runs to their team's bucket on the opposite side. Players dump any water left in their cup into the empty bucket, then race back to the next player on the team. When every player is finished, measure the water in the buckets to determine a winner.

Mission Project Idea:

You may want to raise money for Pure Water, Pure Love or Baptist Global Response. Kids could do a walk-a-thon, a jump rope-a-thon or a rock-a-thon.

- For more information about Pure Water Pure Love visit www.wmu.com/pwpl.
- For more information about Baptist Global Response visit www.gobgr.org.







