



CELL OUTLINE

YOUTH

INTRO

There's something special about how young people see the world. During their training, new teachers are taught that the strongest reactions in teenagers and young adults are the reactions to right and wrong. This might be because young people are less willing to make compromises over what is right or wrong: the more a problem is lived with, the less it is noticed, and so as people get older they notice injustices less. This is why young people can impact these problems so significantly – because we aren't looking for half-measures, or sticking-plasters, or temporary solutions. We want it to be right.

This material will hopefully create awareness and discussion about the water and sanitation crisis, encouraging action by fundraising, campaigning and spreading the word.

WELCOME

Game: Cup relay

You will need two small cups and four watertight containers – one small (eg, 1 litre bottle), one large (eg, 15 litres, such as a bin or storage box) and two identical medium-sized containers with a ruler to mark the height of their contents. Fill the small and very large containers with water.

Split your group into two teams. Team A must use one small cup each to transfer their water from the small container into their medium container. Team B must do the same with the large container. For every centimetre the water level reaches in their medium-sized container, each team receives a prize (such as a square of Fairtrade chocolate per cm). Set a generous time limit, although Team A will finish very quickly. Allow them to finish and then watch as Team B earns significantly more chocolate.

Ask: Was this a fair game? If not, why not?

Fact: In the developing world, on average, each person uses just 10 litres of water per day (in many areas less). In the UK, on average, each person uses 150 litres per day. In the game, Team B earned more – were more able to be successful – because they had more resources available to them to begin with.

Ask: If you only had 10 litres of water a day to use, what impact would it have on your life?

WORSHIP

Watch: *Water is Life* video from the ACTION PACK.

Reflect: Think about the importance of water in our lives and why it is important that everyone has access to enough clean, safe water.

Play/Sing: Chris Tomlin – 'Indescribable' (available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PTvr755V8s)

As the music is playing, why not try and create a picture of the world on the floor using blue and green materials (paper, magazines, chalk, grass – anything you can get your hands on). Ask your group to particularly think about the blue bits as they work. Once you have created your world, pray over it and specifically pray about the issue of clean water and sanitation.

WORD

Read: Isaiah 41:17-20.

Discuss: What strikes you about this passage? What does it show us about the value of water in biblical times?

Discuss: Do you think God has forgotten those who live in drought areas, or lack access to clean water?

Discuss: Do you value water?

Discuss: Is it important that we remember those in drought areas / without access to clean water? Why?





Water is often used symbolically in the Bible. As a nation, Israel was born in the desert after it escaped Egypt as told in Exodus. Water became very important, often provided by God. This story of seeking water became intertwined with the story of Israel's religion and relationship with God. As people spoke about water in Israel's history it began to take on an extra meaning which it still has today within Christianity. We sing songs about rain and rivers which actually talk about our relationship with God and where we are in our faith. (Find examples.)

Ask: Is your faith ever in a dry place? (Please do not force people to answer; let them consider the question.) Does it ever feel boring?

Discuss: How/why can our relationship with God become dry?

Discuss: How can you / you and your friends / you and your cell group / you and your church refresh this relationship?

Answers like 'praying' and 'reading the Bible' are fine, but push your group to talk about what actually excites them about church and what they do. Help them to think specifically about how social action fits into this and how this can help stimulate their faith in much more important ways.

The following passage talks about how vital social action is as an act of worship:

Read: Isaiah 58:5-10.

Discuss: According to this passage, what is Church? What is really important about it?

Hopefully they'll pick out that Church is about more than just what happens in our meetings and services. The Church should be there to help people and promote justice.

WITNESS

In light of the passage we have just read, challenge the group to think about what they can do to release the chains of injustice for the hundreds of millions who don't have access to clean and safe water to drink. Here are a few ideas to get them thinking, but there are more available in the ACTION PACK.

1. Could you live on just 10 litres of water a day? Why not try it, even just for a day, and ask your friends and families to sponsor you? (Be sure to emphasise the importance of having enough water to drink!)
2. Make your own 'Turn-off-the-Tap' cards and leave them by taps in your school, church, house, local area (make sure you have permission first).
3. Download the WATERSHED waterdrop and put it somewhere you'll see it every day, like your Facebook/Twitter profile pic, mobile wallpaper, laptop wallpaper). Use it to remind you to fight water poverty and inspire others to join you.
4. As a group, think of your own ways to raise money for WATERSHED (there are more ideas in the ACTION PACK if you're stuck). Try to look outside your church and think about how you can involve your community, school or college. This will help raise wider awareness and mean you're not just asking the same group of people for money. See how creative you can be, and don't forget to send pictures and reports of whatever you do to SAID UK via Facebook (facebook.com/SAIDUK), Twitter (@SAIDUK) or email (id@salvationarmy.org.uk) so they can share it with others to inspire them to get involved.

ALSO IN THE ACTION PACK:

- Videos
- Youth club session ideas
- Youth fundraising ideas