

Spin-offs Assemblies

Assembly Title: A refreshing idea for Harvest Celebration/Collective Worship

Theme: Helping the children appreciate the value and need of water in all parts of the world, esp. in developing world countries. To give children the opportunity to hear the story of Jesus and the woman at the well and apply it to their own lives, values and attitudes.

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 & KS2

Resources:

- a small clear bottle of water,
- story version of woman at the well
- 6 A4 or larger cards as follows:

n o w 2 ? h

note: each letter must be lower case and in the middle of the page since you will be turning the **h** and **n** upside down as well to make a u and a y.

Introduction:

Hold up a water bottle and ask the children what it is? They should (!) say a bottle of water! To pre-empt this it might be an idea to take a sip at the start the assembly. Continue to take sips throughout the assembly – it will hold their attention that bit more.

Suggest that, apart from drinking, what else is water used for? (children might suggest things such as cleaning, washing, growing plants, animals.

You suggest that perhaps the best use of water is .. to help us survive, since we cannot live for login without it.

Main Content: So we are thinking about water .. in addition, how water is important to harvest. Crops and plants need water, animals need water, and food production needs water and so on.

However, what is water?

Explain that it is H₂O and that it is the same all over the world. In places clean - some places undrinkable, but always the basic same ingredients. You know what to expect when you drink from a bottle or a tap.

But does everyone have water?

Read out the following statistics:

- More than 1 billion people lack a good water supply
- 3.5 million people die each year because they have poor quality water
- more people die each year from poor water than from guns and bombs.
- Half the hospital beds in the world are used by patients who are ill because of bad water.

h₂o

h₂o?

who?

- A 5-minute shower uses more water than a typical person uses all day in a slum in a developing country.
- People who live in slums pay 5 or 10 times MORE for a litre of water
- A person can live without food a weeks .. but without water you can only expect to live a week.
- Every person needs about 40 litres of water (80 small bottles) each day for all their needs.
- Every 15 seconds – a child dies somewhere in the world because they suffer from water related disease.

So what can we do about this? How can we help them?

Firstly, we can make sure we do not waste water – turn taps off. We can use water – make sure we wash our hands after we have been to the toilet or playing in the garden.

Maybe we can support to a charity that helps to build wells and make sure that people in other parts of the world have clean water. Because some people have LOADS of water (Bangladesh) .. too much! But it is too dangerous to drink it.

So what about you?

What can you do?

Tell the story of Jesus and the woman at the well.

Jesus was on a journey through the countryside on the way back to his home area of Galilee. However, to get there, he had to pass through Samaria. What you need to know is that – in those days – people from Judea (where Jesus came from) did not get on with from Samaria! That was the rule!

Jesus was totally worn - he had been walking for hours and he sat down at the well. It was midday and the blinding sun was right over head. It was hot and he was really tired. He walked into a small village (called Sychar) which had a famous old well on the edge of the village.

He stared at the water a long way down the well and sat down. He was exhausted. And he had neither rope nor pot to get any water.

Hmm.

So when a woman, a Samaritan from the village, came to get some water out of the well, it seemed fine for Jesus politely asked if she wouldn't mind giving him a drink of water seeing as she was collecting some for herself and her family.

The woman stood – almost shocked that a man – and a man from Judea at that – would even speak to her – let alone ask a favour! Shocked - she didn't know what to do! (She knew that anyone from Judea wouldn't be caught dead talking to someone from Samaria.)

"How come you, a man from Judea, is asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" she asked in throw-away voice.

Jesus didn't react – he wasn't about to get annoyed. What he said - she was definitely not expecting!

how?

you

? (with the hmm)

"If you knew how generous God I wants people to know he is .. and who I am .. instead of me asking you, you'd be asking me! You would be asking me for a drink of living fresh water."

She replied in a clever know-all kind of voice.

"Huh, you don't even have a bucket to draw with, and this is a deep well, so how on earth are you going to get this 'living' water for me? Are you a better man than the people who dug this well and drank from it years and years ago?"

Jesus sat there and looked up at the woman – with no hint of anger or frustration, even though he was gasping for a drink.

He looked up at her and said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an spring busting the surface of the ground, like a gushing fountain of endless life."

Interesting to see what happened. Jesus asked the woman for help, for a drink) and he ended up offering her something far more precious.

Jesus wanted to help the woman right there and then. He wanted to give her *life. Fresh life, life worth living.*

Which makes me think: how can we help people now?

Can you respond like Jesus. Even though he was tired – he wanted to refresh the woman. Can you and I be refreshers! Jesus did not even wait for a drink first before he offered help.

So what can you and I do now to help people around us?

- Be grateful for what we have available to us – even simple water in a tap! And to stop moaning!
- Offer to all those around us – even when we don't feel like it.
- Be mindful and prayerful about what others around the world need – which may mean us not being so wasteful.

U (use it as a bucket and pretend to lower it)

you?

you 2

now?

Pupils response/Outcomes/Prayer:

I am going to pray now. You can look at the bottle as I pray:

Dear God, thank you for what you give us. Our food, our homes. and especially we think of the water we use Water to drink, wash, clean and make plants and animals grow. We are so grateful for this simple luxury – clean water.

Help us to think of those who do not have clean water. And as we learn to not be wasteful, we ask that aid agencies will be able to develop wells and clean water storage for many more people. We think of those who are ill and dying – even right now. Please help those who are there trying to do their best.

Finally, make me a refreshing person = someone who makes others feel better for knowing me. Let me be like a bottle of fresh clean water – full of life and hope for others.

Amen