



Turn on the Tap Education Resources Optional Impact Stories



Kids in Asia

NOTE: These stories should be read in conjunction with the Bible lessons, [Obeying God's Word](#) and [Love God, Love Others](#).

These stories are fictionalized accounts based on the lives of children in the developing world.

Cambodia

Who: Chann (chan), eight-year-old girl

Where: Toul Prasat, Cambodia

When I was a child – much smaller than I am now – I nearly died. I was so sick that I don't remember it, but my grandma has told me the story because she took care of me. My mother died when I was a baby and my father left me with Gran, so I have lived with her since then.

When Gran tells the story of how I almost died, I get shivers up my back. I was so sick that everything I ate or drank turned to water in my belly. I could not stop throwing up. Even my eyes turned to water; the cramps in my belly hurt so much I could not stop crying.

We are very poor, but Gran was so scared she paid all of the money we had saved up to have me rushed to the hospital. We both knew I was sick from drinking the dirty water we collect from the river, but we had no other water. After I got better and came back from the hospital, she worried that I would get sick from the water again.

I was carrying a bucket of water from the river one day when Gran called me from our house, her face bright with excitement, "Chann, come! I want to tell you great news."

Gran had heard about Samaritan's Purse helping people in our village build water filters to make dirty water clear and safe to drink. "I am going to help Samaritan's Purse build one of these water filters and we won't have to drink dirty river water anymore, Chann," she said. I have never seen Gran's face so happy.

We got our filter one year ago. Since then, my cousin Kiri came to live with Gran and me, because his mother died, too. We go to a school Samaritan's Purse helped to build, and help Gran around our bamboo house. The filter has made a big difference in our lives. Before, we had to boil all of the dirty water so we wouldn't get sick. Gran and I would spend hours and hours and hours by the fire, boiling water. We also had to spend a lot of money to buy wood for the fire.

Now, we just pour buckets of water into our filter and the water that comes out is as clear as glass. Gran will never have to worry about us drinking dirty water again.

Vietnam

Who: Bao (bay-oh), a 13-year-old boy

Where: Quan Nha, Vietnam

The morning sun hasn't come up from its bed yet when I hear father calling across the room, "Bao, get up, it's time to fetch the water." Father wakes me up like this every day. Before I get dressed to go to school or before I eat my bowl of rice for breakfast, I must fetch water from the well in our town. Usually boys my age don't fetch water for their families – usually the girls or the mothers do it – but this is the special task I do each day to help my family make extra money.

Like most fathers in our town, my father has two jobs. He is a rice farmer, and he and my mother work hard each day in the wet rice fields. He also makes and sells soya bean curd, a very common food in Vietnam. He sells the soya bean curd to make money so my brother and I can go to school. It costs a lot of money for books and pencils and paper and school uniforms, so each morning I help father by collecting the water he needs to make soya bean curd.

Lately, father has been very excited about his soya bean curd. Business is good and he is selling it faster than he can make it. He says it's all thanks to the BioSand Water Filter that Samaritan's Purse helped our family to build. He says the filtered water tastes so much better that the soya bean curd tastes better, too, and customers are so eager to buy it that he is selling out faster than he can make it!

The filter has done many good things for our family.

When our family got the filter, the first thing we noticed was the taste of our tea. We drink tea every day, and the tea used to be cloudy and brown. Now we use filtered water and the tea is clear and golden and smells delicious.

The biggest change was for me. My eye was always puffy and red with infection. I sometimes could not see out of it, but we could not afford any medicines, and washing my face with dirty water only made it worse. After we got our filter, I began to wash my face with filtered water, and the infection went away! Now we use the water for everything – even brushing our teeth, cooking, and washing vegetables.

The water filter has changed everything for my family.