



## Lesson 2: The Right to Clean Water

**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:** Grade 9-12 Social Studies and Science

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

- Video
- Group Discussion
- Worksheets on 'The Universal Declaration of Human Rights' and 'The Resolution of The Right to Clean Water'

**ESTIMATED TIME:** 75 minutes

**KEY QUESTIONS/IDEAS:**

- Explore inequality and injustice as it pertains to water around the world.
- Read the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' and discuss the issue of water as it fits within.
- Learn about The United Nations' 'Resolution on The Right to Water'.

### MATERIALS

Projector or TV to show videos

Copies of Activity W1: The Articles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Copies of Activity W2: The Resolution on The Right to Water

## A) Introduce the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**WRITE:** “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights” on the board. Ask students: Has anyone heard of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights? What is it? What is its purpose?

**DIVIDE** students into groups of about 4 people. Hand out copies of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (Activity W1—attached) to all students.

Ask groups to look at the list of rights in the declaration and try to decide where the right to clean water would fit. After some discussion have each group present to the class about whether they think the right to water should be a human right according to the declaration, and where it would fit in.

(The Right to Clean Water does fit into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights under Article 25 – The Right to Adequate Living Standard.)

### *Optional Video:*

Watch video that explains (in easy language) what are human rights and who is supposed to enforce these rights:

[What is a human right](#)

(1:45 min)

## B) The Resolution on The Right to Clean Water

Students work alone or in partners to complete the questions after reading through the Resolution found on Activity W2: The Resolution on The Right to Clean Water

### The Resolution on The Right to Clean Water

On 28 July 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights. The Resolution calls upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources, help capacity-building and technology transfer to help countries, in particular developing countries, to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all. Source: Resolution A/RES/64/292. United Nations General Assembly, July 2010

What organizations or individuals are creating positive change for people in the world who do not have access to clean drinking water? (*Samaritan's Purse, United Nations (UNWater), World Vision, Save the Children, Oxfam, WEcharity, Canadian Government (through Canadian International Development Agency), etc.*)

How do the organizations make an impact? (*drill wells, provide filters, teach people about clean water and good hygiene and sanitation, dig reservoirs, provide clean water buckets, etc.*)

What does Samaritan's Purse do to address the need for clean water in developing countries, or even in developed countries in the aftermath of a natural disaster? (*drill/dig well, provide filters (BSFs), provide community filters (at schools or health clinics), teach people about clean water and good hygiene and sanitation, provide latrines and soap, dig reservoirs, provide clean water containers, provide short term solutions for disaster relief (PUR packets) etc.*)

Watch 2 or 3 of the videos linked below to give students more information about what Non-Governmental Organizations, such as Samaritan's Purse, do in the developing world. As they learn more, encourage them to fill in more answers. After they have finished watching and recording, have a discussion.

[Videos showcasing Samaritan's Purse work around the world](#)

## C) Assessment for Learning:

Reflection: Share this quote from former United Nations Secretary General Kori Annan

“We shall not finally defeat AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, or any of the other infectious diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation and basic health care.”

Ask students to write a reflection about the quote and also on what they have learned to-day about The Right to Clean Water. Answer the questions: What did you learn today? What is our responsibility in Canada? What can you do to help people who don't have access to clean water?

## MINISTRY MOMENT:

Teachers of Christian Schools could use this as an assessment tool rather than the quote from Kofi Annan.

### **Read this passage with students:**

Have students write a reflection based on the following questions as a guide:

1. Beyond the RIGHT of people to have clean water, why else does Samaritan's Purse provide clean water for people around the world?
2. Study Matthew 25: 31-46 and explain your reasoning.

### *The Sheep and the Goats*

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’ <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

<sup>41</sup> “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

<sup>44</sup> “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

<sup>45</sup> “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

<sup>46</sup> “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

— *Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)*

## Activity 1: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, the Universal Declaration states basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.

**WE ALL ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL.  
EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THESE RIGHTS  
NO MATTER YOUR RACE, RELIGION OR NATIONALITY  
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, FREEDOM AND SAFETY.**

**YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS**

**NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY ANY OF YOUR RIGHTS**

	No one has the right to hold you in slavery.		You can travel wherever you want.		You have the right to social security and are entitled to economic, social, and cultural help from your government.
	No one has the right to torture you.		You have the right to seek asylum in another country if you are being persecuted in your own country.		
	You have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.		Everyone has the right to a nationality.		<b>Worker's right:</b> Every adult has the right to a job, a fair wage and to join a trade union.
	We are all equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.		All adults have the right to marriage and to raise a family.		You have the right to leisure and rest from work.
	You have the right to seek legal help if your rights are violated.		You have the right to own property.		
	No one has the right to wrongly imprison you or force you to leave your country.		Everyone has the right to belong to a religion.		Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family.
	You have a right to a fair and public trial.		Freedom of expression: You have the right to free thought and to voice your opinions to others.		Everyone has the right to education.
	Everyone is innocent until <b>PROVEN</b> guilty.		Everyone has the right to gather as a peaceful assembly.		Your intellectual property as artist or scientist should be protected.
	You have the right to privacy. No one can interfere with your reputation, family, home or correspondence.		You have the right to help choose and to take part in governing your country, directly or through chosen representatives.		We are all entitled to social order so we can enjoy these rights.

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## Activity W2: The Resolution on the Right to Clean Water

### **THE RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER**

On 28 July 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights. The Resolution calls upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources, help capacity-building and technology transfer to help countries, in particular developing countries, to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

Source: Resolution A/RES/64/292. United Nations General Assembly, July 2010

### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- 1. What organizations or individuals do you know that are creating positive change for people in the world who do not have access to clean drinking water?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. How do these organizations make an impact?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3. What does Samaritan's Purse do to address the need for clean water in developing countries, or even in developed countries, in the aftermath of a natural disaster?**