

# SAMARITAN'S PURSE WATER PROJECTS

Turning on the tap to safe water for communities. 

## Samaritan's Purse Education Resources

### Bible Lesson 1

The Samaritan's Purse Water Education resources are Bible-based teaching materials intended to teach biblical principles around the goal of providing safe water to the 663 million people around the world who do not have access to it.

Every 24 seconds a person is dying from diseases caused by contaminated drinking water, and we want to provide parents and teachers with Bible-based resources to educate children about Samaritan's Purse, the biblical principles behind our work, and how Canadians of all ages can help get safe water to those who need it.

#### Living in Bible Days

**Age Group** Children in grades K – 6

**Leader** A parent or teacher can lead children through this Bible lesson

**Bible Focus** Comparing a story of water in the Bible to how we use water in developed countries and how much of the world still lives in the "Bible days"

**Objective** To show how readily available water is here for anything we want when much of the world is still struggling to find enough for basic uses

**Bible Verses** Psalm 104:10-13

**Preparation** The teacher or parent should read Psalm 104:10-13 to follow up on the Bible focus

**Materials** Materials needed depend on the optional activities in which the children participate; while preparing your lesson, please note which activities you would like to do

Some activities will require you to download another PDF from the Turn on the Tap Education Resources. Watch for this symbol:



Please note: in order to download PDFs, you must be connected to the Internet

## Lesson

Most of you know the world of the Bible is much different from our world. The people of that time, at least 2,000 years ago, thought differently and lived differently from us.

That difference extends to water, too. Back then, people often didn't use water the way we do. They didn't have water slides or water-spraying pistols. They didn't put ice cubes in their drinks, and most seldom had a chance to take a bath.

In Bible days, people didn't have running water in their homes. And that means most didn't have taps or toilets or bathtubs or swimming pools. There was no bottled water available at the store and no drinking fountains at their schools. The people in the Bible didn't water their lawns or have dishwashers.

Water was often hard to find, and the dry, desert lands of the Bible, such as in Israel and Egypt, were often in the grip of drought. So that meant when they could find water, people used it just for the most important things, such as drinking or bathing or watering little gardens, or making sure their farm animals had enough to drink.

Yes, we have droughts in Canada today. However, our droughts are much different than those of Biblical times. Sometimes, when it doesn't rain for a long time, our governments tell us not to water our lawns or wash our cars. Still, we always have enough water to drink or take a bath. That often wasn't the case for people in the Bible.

Our farmers sometimes don't have enough water for their crops. But in some parts of Canada, water is moved from rivers to dry areas through canals, and farmers can pump that water into their fields using huge sprinklers with wheels. None of that was available to people in the Bible.



### Optional Discussion

A parent or teacher poses questions to children. Help generate ideas with possible answers.

**Questions:** Do we believe there will always be plenty of water for us to drink and bathe and swim in? Why?


When it comes to water, are there people in the world who still live like the people in Bible Days?

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## Activity

### In Class

Have children complete activity for their age group.

Download:  [Importance of water](#) (Grades K-2)  
[Water rationing game](#) (Grades 3-6)

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In Bible days, most people had to walk for their water. If they lived near a river or lake, they might get their drinking water from there and maybe also bathe in that same water. If they had farm animals, those animals might drink or bathe from that river or lake as well, which could make the people sick because the animals might have diseases or bad germs that could get into the water.

If people didn't live near rivers or lakes, they would probably be in villages with just one well providing water for everyone. That was the situation in the Bible when Jesus met a woman at a village well and changed her life by revealing He was the Son of God. But if they didn't live in a village, they might have to walk many hours every day to find and bring water – sometimes, dirty, contaminated water – back to their homes.

All that may seem like a long time ago, but millions of people still live like the people in the Bible. In many places like Africa, they still have no running water in their homes, and they still have serious droughts where there isn't enough water to drink or take a bath.

Even if there is enough, they still have no easy way to water their dry fields, still get drinking water from polluted rivers or lakes, and/or must walk a long way to find it and bring it back to their homes.



### Optional Impact Story

If time allows, a parent or teacher can read the story of life in Kenya and how the lack of safe water affects people.



Download: Story PDF [Life in Kenya](#)

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### Optional At-Home Activity

Download:



[Water use Quiz](#) (Grades 3-6)

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### Ways to Respond

- Ask children to pray that they and their friends will become aware of how many people are still living like people did in Bible days.
- Challenge the children to think about ways they can help meet the needs of people around the world who do not have safe drinking water.
- Encourage children to talk to their parents or friends about how other kids must drink dirty, contaminated water.



### A Step Further

Help provide a family in the developing world get safe drinking water as a class, group, or individual. We have ideas for fundraising – from small stewardship activities to large fundraising campaigns – available online at [www.SamaritansPurse.ca](http://www.SamaritansPurse.ca) in the creative fundraising section.

Suggested fund-raising activities to go with this Bible lesson:



Download PDF:

[Chores and Allowance](#)  
[Loonie for Clean Water](#)  
[Provide a family With Clean Water](#)