

# Children's activity 1: Thirsty

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(Pre-K, Lower Elementary)

*Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46; focus verse: Matthew 25:35*

**Objectives:** Children will imagine what it is like to be thirsty and use problem solving skills to imagine how to ensure everyone has enough to drink. Children will learn about real-world situations where people do not have access to clean water.

**Supplies:** Cups and a pitcher of water (and a recycle bin, if using recyclable cups).

## **Part 1**

**Instructions:** Read the scripture (or just the focus verse). Focus on what it feels like to be thirsty. Ask for examples of what might make someone thirsty (like taking a long walk, climbing a tree, or raking a yard full of leaves). You might act out these examples. Help the group imagine being thirsty.

Ask the children who would like a drink of water by a show of hands. Then invite the children to come forward and receive a cup. Split the children into two groups.

Once all of the children have cups, take the pitcher of water and fill up the cups for all of the children in group #1. Remind them not to drink it yet. Leave the cups empty for the children in group #2. Invite all of the children to drink. Remind them to hold onto their cups.

**Processing:** Ask: For those of you with empty cups, how did it feel not being able to drink?  
For those of you with filled cups, how did it feel to drink when others couldn't?

Say: Imagine to yourself—don't say it out loud! Just think about how we might help everyone who is thirsty have something to drink.

## **Part 2**

**Instructions:** This time, fill the cups in group #2, again reminding them not to drink yet. Invite the children to share aloud and decide together how they will make sure everyone has some water to drink. Once everyone has some water, invite the children to drink.

**Processing:** Ask: How did this time feel different from the first time? Was it difficult to give up some of your water? Can you think of a story in the world about someone who doesn't have enough to drink?

## Conclusion

Share one or more of the following stories:

In the city of Flint, MI, chemicals caused a mineral called lead to make the water unsafe to drink. People who lived in Flint tried to tell the local government, but were told the water was safe to drink even though it wasn't. Many people, especially children, started to get sick, and as a result, people all across the country started to help. One Great Hour of Sharing helped provide cleaned water for the people of Flint.

After a big storm or disaster—like a hurricane, tornado, or earthquake—people need water. Often, storms damage water systems and pipes so they don't work. Other times, the water gets filled with mud or trash that makes it unsafe to drink. One Great Hour of Sharing helped provide clean water right after disasters, and then helped communities repair their water systems, dig new wells, or filter unclean water.

At an elementary school in Vietnam, there was no running water. The closest water was a river, which was a long walk away, and that water was not always safe to drink because chemicals were sometimes poured into the river. One Great Hour of Sharing helped the school install water pumps and filters. Now the kids have water to drink, to prepare their lunch, to wash their hands, and to take home with them! It helps them stay healthy so they can learn.

Every kind act of sharing demonstrates God's love, presence, and care for every member of the community. Giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is one way to share in this important ministry of service to those in need.

*Written by Waltrina Middleton for the 2017 One Great Hour of Sharing.*