

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT 1

**Preparation:** You will need a glass of water; a one-gallon plastic, re-sealable container—filled with water; and a potholder or folded dish cloth.

Have you ever been really thirsty? What does your mouth feel like when that happens? My mouth gets dry and it's hard to swallow. That's why a glass of water can taste so good! (Take a drink of water.) Where do you go to get water? (Let children name sources.) It's pretty easy for us to get water, isn't it? It's as close as the faucet or the refrigerator. But for many people around the world, water is scarce and not always clean and safe to drink.

In fact, half of all the people on the continent of Africa do not have access to safe drinking water. Look at our congregation here this morning. Imagine if that whole side of the room couldn't get clean water to drink.

And even when clean water is available, it often has to be carried a long way: sometimes many miles! Do you know who walks to the stream or the well and carries home that water? In many villages, the children are the ones who fetch the water. It takes a long time, so many of those children don't have time to play or to go to school.

Let's see what that might be like. (Invite the children to lift the closed gallon of water to see how heavy it is; then recruit a volunteer to put the water on his/her head as you explain that many people find that they can carry more weight if they put it on their heads; use the potholder or folded dishtowel as a pad on the child's head and place the gallon jug on top of it.) Do you think you could carry that jug for a mile? Many of the jugs the children carry are a lot bigger than this. (Invite the children to sit again.)

This week, we take an offering called, "One Great Hour of Sharing." One of the ways this offering is used is to dig wells close to villages so people can have clean water without having to walk a long way to get it. Whole communities can have good water and the children in those communities can go to school. Our gifts to this offering really do help a lot.

Let's pray.

God, each time we pick up a glass of water, help us remember how easy it is for us to get water, and how hard it is for others. Help us be generous givers who help the children of other countries have a life a little easier, the way you want it to be.

Amen.

CWS