



John 4

(Lectionary Year A Lent 3)

By Beth Barnett

Using John 4 as a context for praying for justice, resources, and provision around the concept of 'water' in the world.

You will need:

- Several colourful buckets
- Permanent markers

Time required:

10 minutes

Connect

In our Bible reading today, we read about Jesus and his conversation with the woman at the well. Jesus' conversation begins because of the shared basic human need that everyone – even Jesus – has for water.

Context

We are called to pray for the world because we all share in one another's lives and needs. Our life in God in the world is a common life.

In many places around the world there are still difficulties for people getting clean water. There are lots of reasons for this – lots of issues and barriers

Content

So today, we are going to pray for water.

There are lots of ways to think and pray for water in the world.

Can you think of some of the reasons why safe water supply is lacking in parts of the world?

Brainstorm with your gathering some of the reasons a safe water supply is lacking in some places in the world. If the group needs some prompts display the 'water issues picture'.



As you gather these ideas ask "How can we turn this into a prayer?" Invite a few volunteers to be 'bucket scribes' – perhaps in pairs, teaming a person who is confident at writing with an assistant bucket holder, to help the process. Your volunteers write and/or illustrate these prayer ideas on the buckets. I'd like to invite you to gather in smaller groups around each of the buckets.

In the Bible story, Jesus showed that he cared for the whole of the woman's life – her past, her future, and what was happening to her right there and then. Jesus talked about living water – to help her think about God. But Jesus is also concerned about real water needs around the world. We can always pray about the things that are not right in the world, knowing that Jesus knows all about it – what happened in the past to make it that way; what it's like right now and what can happen in the future to make it better.

Choose a volunteer in each group to hold the buckets in the middle of the groups and ask everyone to hold on to a part of the bucket as you pray. Give space in which people can mention the issue that is illustrated closest to them on the bucket. Then say a short prayer asking God to help us help.

Consequence

We all have capacity to help, in some way.

And a good place to start is to remember to pray. Pray for the safe access to water, and pray that we would be able to find ways to help. So, take a mug/plastic cup for your household and we are just going to take a couple of minutes to brainstorm or reflect on our conversation today: decide which of these 'water issues' you'd like to draw or write on your mug as a reminder to pray in your household this week (*display the 'water issues' picture as a thought-prompt, if necessary*)



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