



# *The Earth Is the Lord's*

**IN THIS ACTIVITY**, the participants explore what the Scriptures say about water.

TIME REQUIRED: 30-40 MINUTES | INTENDED FOR: GRADES 9-12



## **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- » Five sheets of butcher paper
- » Markers, one for each participant, plus one extra
- » A roll of masking tape
- » Bibles, one for each participant
- » Index cards, eight for each participant
- » Three or four rolls of clear tape
- » Visit [worldvision.org/lp/acsi-teacher-resources](http://worldvision.org/lp/acsi-teacher-resources) for a video you can show to support this lesson. (optional)

Note: Using multiple sheets of butcher paper, create a large mural on one of the walls in your meeting space. On the top of the mural, write the following: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

## *Activity Steps*

1

**BEGIN BY ASKING** the participants to share their responses to the following questions:

- » In what ways is water essential to life?
- » How do we as humans sometimes show a lack of appreciation for this valuable resource?

Allow for several responses before continuing.

2

**SHARE THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS:**

- » Life, in all its forms, is impossible without water.

- » Water is viewed by many faiths and cultures as a sacred element symbolizing life. To Christians, baptism with water symbolizes the cleansing of sins and the gift of eternal life in Christ.
- » The theme of water is integral to the telling of our story of faith. Water can symbolize many things for Christians: God's care and concern, God's provision, God's Word, God's salvation. Though there is no mystical or magical power in water, it stands as a symbol for these things.
- » In the Scriptures, we hear time and time again about the importance of water.

3

**DIVIDE THE LARGE GROUP** into small groups of four or five. Distribute a Bible, eight index cards, and a marker to each participant. Now ask the small groups to conduct a Bible search (you may allow them to use their smartphones, if you wish) to find Scripture verses that refer to water. Point out that there are more than 700 uses of the word "water" in the Bible, so they should not have too difficult a time locating a few. If you like, you can designate certain books of the Bible for each small group to explore.

Tell the small groups that as their members find relevant Scripture passages, they should note them in large print on their index cards, one passage to each card. Then on the backs of the cards, they should offer brief summaries of the verses. Each group member should try to come up with no more than four different Scripture passages so that each small group has between 16 and 20 different passages when all the members are done. The group members may want to share their passages aloud as they write them down so the other members are aware of the passages that have already been listed. Share the following examples with the participants to get them going:

- » In Genesis 1:20, we read that the first life appears in water.
- » In Isaiah 43:19, the hopes of the prophets were expressed through the promise that rivers will spring up in the desert.
- » In Revelation 22:1, it is revealed that in the new heaven and the new earth there will be a "river of the water of life, as clear as crystal."

4

**INVITE THE SMALL GROUPS** to report their findings to the large group by sharing the Scripture passages they found and providing a quick summary of each. As they do so, ask them to tape their index cards onto the mural you have created on the wall, with the Scripture citations facing out.

5

**NOW ASK THE SMALL GROUPS** to take some time to discuss what they have learned about the value and importance of water. As they share, they should note each learning on an index card. Tell the groups to come up with no more than three learnings for each group member.

6

**INVITE THE SMALL GROUPS** to report back to the large group their learnings as noted on their index cards. As they do so, ask them to tape the cards onto the mural.

7

8

**WHILE THEY ARE STILL IN THEIR SMALL GROUPS**, ask that each participant take his or her final index card and write a prayer that focuses on the issue of water. It can be a prayer of thanksgiving for the water we have, a prayer for those who do not have water, a prayer for safe water, and so forth. The prayer does not have to be lengthy or fancy; simple and heartfelt is fine.

**CONCLUDE THE ACTIVITY** by gathering the prayer cards and then inviting the participants to pray with you. Use a few of the prayers noted on the cards.

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**HOMEWORK:** *The Earth Is the Lord's*

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Start raising your money for the Global 6K at your school. Visit your school's Global 6K website. Invite your friends and family to do the Global 6K with you.

*Write down ideas for ways to raise money for the Global 6K at your school.*

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