Our Grandchildren’s Water

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Our Grandchildren’s Water

This Workshop is a overview of the updated interfaith curriculum “Our Grandchildren’s Water”

Teaching the Teachers
Our Grandchildren’s Water

This curriculum is an effort to spend time in small groups in our communities of faith learning about water, and thinking about the ethical implications of something precious.
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Each Sessions Format

• Facilitators Preparation (Pre-Reading) 20 – 30 Minutes

• Session Length 45-60 minutes
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Strategies for delivering the best content:

- 7 Weeks – Deep Dive
- 4 Weeks – Wading Into the Water
- 1 Week – Getting Your Feet Wet
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Watch a water-related documentary as a group with a moderated discussion following. Some suggestions:

- Last Call at the Oasis (2011): covers high points of the world’s water crisis
- Tapped (2009): focuses on bottled water –
- 10 other movies not listed
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For a one-time event focused on water, we recommend you choose one of the following options:

• Select portions of the 4-week curriculum that best fit your group.

• Invite a guest speaker who is an expert in an aspect of water most interesting to your group. (Faith in Place has speakers and/or suggestions)
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4 Week Version – Wading into the Water

• Lesson #1 - Water as a Sacred Gift.

• Lesson #2 - A Precious Resource: The Two-Gallon

• Lesson #3 - The Flow and Quality of Water

• Lesson #4 - The Laws That Protect Us From Ourselves
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- Lesson #1 - Water as a Sacred Gift
- Lesson #2 - A Precious Resource: The Two-Gallon
- Lesson #3 - The Flow and Quality of Water
- Lesson #4 - The Laws That Protect Us From Ourselves
- Lesson #5 - Our Faith in Water
- Lesson #6 - The Ethics of Water
- Lesson #7 - On Becoming Responsible
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1 Week – Getting Your Feet Wet
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- Water is Essential to life
  - Unequally distributed,
  - Ancient, Irreplaceable,
  - Precious
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Unequally distributed,
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Water is Life
The miracle of life on Earth is precisely determined by our existence at the distance from our Sun that permits water to exist in all three of its phases — liquid, solid (ice) and gas (vapor).

97% of the water on the earth is salt water. Your body is about 70% water. Think of your tears and your sweat. You’re full of salt water too.
How Much Water Is There?
Vast amounts. 1.4 billion cubic kilometers. But that water isn’t all available for use by humans and other livings things who require fresh water. The freshwater reserves of the world are estimated at about 35 million cubic kilometers, but most of that is frozen and inaccessible.
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

How Much Water Is There?
If the water in the world were a five gallon bucket, two cups of it would be fresh water. Of that, one and a half cups would be frozen and inaccessible. Only a half cup would be available fresh water. Of that half cup only a drop is accessible fresh surface water. The rest is deep aquifers, or water vapor.
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How Much Water Is There?

So there is a lot of water on the earth, but only a little of it is currently available to us for drinking. Repeated use of that available water impinges on its quality, and may render what we do have unfit for drinking.
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

**How Much Water Is There?**

Already, 663 million people (1 in 10) on the earth lack access to drinking water, and 2.4 billion (1 in 3) people lack adequate sanitation. In fact, globally more people have cell phones than have toilets!
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

How Much Water Is There?

Water in many areas is particularly compromised – where sanitation is inadequate water quality tends to be extremely poor, and people tend to drink whatever water is available to them, often contaminated by human and animal waste.
How Much Water Is There?

Water is not really in limited supply. What is limited is the availability of adequate clean, drinkable water supplies for humans where they currently live.
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift
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Theological Reflection: Seen and Unseen

Water is abundant in the world, though most of it is unavailable to us for drinking.

And all the water we drink is the same water that anything has ever drunk – and the same water that any living thing will ever drink in the future.
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Welcome

• Facilitators introduce themselves
• Participants introduce themselves
Opening Mediation on Water

• **Isaiah 12:3-6** 3With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted."
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

Life-Giving Water

Facilitator Read Aloud
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

Group Discussion/Theological Reflection

• What teachings or scripture in your traditions speaks to our needs being met through what we can see and what we can’t see?
2 Corinthians 4:18

18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

Group Discussion/Theological Reflection

• How is our relationship to God like our relationship to water?

• Is there something about the immanence and necessity of water that reminds you of the presence of the holy?
In the belief in God of many names, *immanence* holds that God is present in all of creation, while remaining distinct from it.

With all living organisms composed of 60 to 90 percent water, all organisms require the substance as a basic building material as well as to regulate internal body temperature, transport nutrients through the bloodstream and flush out wastes.

*God could be like Water to Us*
Group Discussion/Theological Reflection

• How shall we respond as people of faith to the fragility of this gift, and to the reality that the way we deal with it will impact the ability of all future generations to drink?
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

Group Discussion/Theological Reflection

**John 7:37-39**

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."
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Lesson #1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

Group Discussion/Theological Reflection

John 4:10

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

Group Discussion/Theological Reflection

• What questions or insights arose from the readings for the session?
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

Group Discussion/Theological Reflection

• What questions or insights arose from the readings for the session?
• Water is Essential to life
  ➢ Unequally distributed,
  ➢ Ancient, Irreplaceable,
  ➢ Precious
Polluted and undrinkable water was also very serious. One of the plagues of Egypt was turning the waters of the Nile river to blood (Exodus 7:14-24).

When the Israelites left the Red Sea and came to Marah they found the water there bitter and complained to Moses. God allowed Moses to perform the miracle of making the water sweet and restored the Israelites faith in Him (Exodus 15:22-27).
Life-Giving Water

Facilitator Read Aloud
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Overview of The Hydrologic Cycle

• Water is a complex subject
  ➢ Scientifically,
  ➢ Ecologically, Legally,
  ➢ And Ethically
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- Water is a complex subject.
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Water is a complex subject,
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Water is a complex subject,
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Lesson#1 – Water as a Sacred Gift

Introduce Readings for Session 2 and Optional Two-Gallon Challenge

Water Blessing
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Prayer for water
Heavenly Father, Almighty God, Lord God, Most High.
As I am using water to wash myself, to drink and to live; I want to thank you for this most precious gift.
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Prayer for water
I bless water in your Holy Name and I ask you to bless it once more, so that we may continue to enjoy this gift. You sanctified water even at the beginning of creation as Your Spirit hovered above the waters.
Prayer for water

You sanctified water in such way, that we learned in the Holy Scriptures that several times you miraculously washed lepers clean. We become sanctified by baptism with water. Water in indispensable to life, it has a great similarity to Your Spirit.
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Prayer for water

In You we live, we move and have our being. We would die without you. In the same way in water we live, we move and have our being. Without water we would die. Your spirit cleanses our souls of our sins just as water cleanses our bodies.
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Prayer for water

You have invited us to drink of the living waters of Your Spirit so that we may live eternally; we also need to drink water in order to live our earthly existence.
Exhibitor Passport

- Visit Exhibitor tables throughout the day
- Have them stamp your passport
- Turn in your passport with at least $\frac{1}{2}$ stamped & completed Exit Survey to be entered into a drawing for prizes
Join the conversation!

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