YOUR NEIGHBOUR IS THIRSTY
All-Age Model Talk

This All-Age Model Talk can be used with the Model Talk. This version does not have a regular giving ask and, therefore, should always be used with the Model Talk and not instead of it. There is an accompanying PowerPoint presentation to go with the talk.

WELCOME

Good morning, and thank you for your warm welcome! I'm [Speaker's Name] and here on behalf of Tearfund Scotland. Before I begin, can I also say thank you to those of you who have faithfully supported Tearfund, whether it be through prayer, financial giving, or committing to a legacy. Your support is so important to us and makes such a difference to lives around the world.

INTRODUCTION

Can anyone tell me what this is?
[Invite answers from the floor]

It is, in fact, a tap. Do you see the string that comes down to the ground? That acts as a foot pedal! You press down on the string with your foot and it tilts the container, pouring out water on to your hands.

Do you see the green bottle top? Inside this is a bar of soap on a string. The bottle top protects the soap from the occasional heavy rains.

If you go around rural villages in Africa, then you may see this form of tap. These pictures were taken in a country called Uganda in East Africa. Tearfund have been working there to enable access to clean water for villagers, as well as to teach them skills for good hygiene, such as making these simple taps.

Recently, there has been a lot of focus on how we wash our hands – that we should be washing them for more than 20 seconds and sing 'Happy Birthday' twice as we do so. For many people around the world, they don't have access to clean water in order to wash their hands. They also don't know that they can prevent diseases by washing their hands regularly with soap. That is why this type of training is so important.

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QUIZ

Let's have a quick quiz.

- **What percentage of the Earth's surface is covered in water?**
  71 per cent – if you look at a globe, there is more than twice as much water than land.

- **How much water should you drink in a day?**
  Between 1.2 - 2 litres – the amount recommended daily by the NHS is a minimum of 1.2 litres, however in other countries, for example, the USA, the recommendation is closer to two litres. This equates to about eight glasses a day.

- **What percentage of our fresh water is on the surface (eg. rivers and lakes)?**
  Just 0.3 per cent (the vast majority is found in glaciers, icecaps or underground). Only a small percentage (about 0.3 per cent) of the earth's water is even usable by humans. The other 99.7 per cent is in the oceans, soils, ice caps, and floating in the atmosphere. However, we don't have access to much of the 0.3 per cent because it is under the ground. Most of our water comes from rivers, but the majority of fresh water is actually found underground as soil moisture and in aquifers. This groundwater can feed the streams, which is why rivers keep flowing even when there has been no rain.

- **Across the world, how many people do not have access to clean water?**
  Around 785 million people (11 per cent of the global population). Yes, 785 million – almost one in every eight people have no clean water. That is more than the whole population of Europe.

JESUS TALKS ABOUT THIRST

With a staggering 785 million not having access to clean water, people are going thirsty and not getting the basic 1.2 litres of drinking water. Jesus talks about being thirsty.

In Matthew 25, Jesus says that when the Son of Man comes, he will separate people out and will say to the righteous:

'"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."'

Whenever we quench the thirst of someone who is thirsty, it is as if we are doing this for Jesus. This is quite a responsibility, but one that Tearfund takes seriously. For many years, Tearfund has been working with our partners to provide clean, safe and accessible drinking water to communities.

GRAVITY FLOW WATER SYSTEM

One of the ways we do this is by helping people to access some of the water that is underground. In Uganda, near where we saw the picture of the tap, you can find these small fields. Each of these small fields in the boundaries of the hedges contains a spring where water naturally emerges from the ground. Tearfund has worked with our partner to put drainage into these areas that capture the water and enables it to go into pipes that flow into the tank.

This water then flows down pipes to help families access water from the taps further down the hills.

While we can get water from the ground, another way is to catch the water that falls. In Rwanda, rain can be unpredictable, and when it does fall, it falls very quickly causing floods. Tearfund have been able to work with our partner, African Enterprise (AE), on a project funded by the Scottish Government to help families capture some of this water.

When it rains, the water falling on the roof of a building is channeled into gutters, which flow into a large 10,000 litre tank. This water is then filtered in the tank and can be used as drinking water, for the animals, or irrigation so that they can grow crops. We call this rainwater 'harvesting' and it can be a real lifeline to communities.

Later in our service, I'll be talking to the adults a little more about water and, particularly, about the situation in Ethiopia. For now, we just want to pause for a moment and thank God for the water that he has provided and pray for those who don't have as easy access to it as we do.

LET US PRAY:

Lord Jesus,

We thank you for water. We thank you that it is so useful in growing crops and refreshing us on a warm summer's day. We thank you for the work of Tearfund's partners working with communities around the world to enable them to access clean, fresh water.

Lord, we pray for those people who have so much water that it floods their land making it difficult to farm and grow crops for their everyday needs. We ask that you will strengthen them, comfort them and give them wisdom in how to use this abundance of water.

Likewise, we pray for those who don't have access to the water that they so desperately need. We also ask that you strengthen them, comfort them and draw people around them who will help them to access this much-needed water.

Amen.

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