

Introduction

Each chapter in *And Social Justice for All* covers one of fourteen global justice issues and follows a similar structure to allow the reader quick and easy access to the information and resources.

The chapters open with general information on the subject, which might include history, statistics, illustrative stories, context, current events, and projections. The introductory material only touches the surface of the issue; use it to foster further exploration into one or more aspects you find relevant, interesting, or challenging. Most issues are multifaceted and interrelated. A few global and next-door concerns are highlighted to lead to further understanding of the issues. Finally, hope is offered through exciting and encouraging work being done in each field and a call to make a difference.

**We should think
a little more
about each other.**
—Jiyun, age 17

Features You'll Find in Each Chapter

Innovation to Explore: Learn about innovative ideas in each justice category. Talk to your kids or students about the solutions people have created to everyday challenges. Think about what area of study those creators used. Encourage young people that no matter what gifts they possess or what field of study they go into, they can use their gifts to extend justice.

Talk Justice: Use these conversation starters as a way of gently introducing these complex subjects to young children and pressing older children to dig deeper into the subject. The more we draw justice issues into everyday conversations, the more we equip children—and ourselves—to respond. Be willing to ask hard questions, and be all right with not having all the answers. Commit to listening to children and, whenever possible, put

actions behind the words to affirm that you value their contribution to the conversation.

Study God's Word: Henri Nouwen said, "The spiritual life does not remove us from the world, but leads us deeper into it."¹ We turn to God's Word to equip us to be effective as God's hands and feet to his people. A brief devotional covers each topic with a Scripture verse, thoughts, challenge questions, and prayer.

Explore Justice: Activities are grouped for three age ranges: 3–6, 7–11, and 12 and up. From relay races to artistic reflection, children will actively engage by reading, playing, observing, experimenting, gathering, creating, and connecting. All the activities make connections to justice issues and provide opportunities to deepen understanding. Though the children's books I suggest throughout are helpful in nurturing awareness of the fourteen featured topics, not all suggested titles contain the gospel message. This is due to the limited number of children's social justice books in the Christian marketplace. And while I've suggested age ranges for each book, as a caregiver I encourage you to preread each book in order to determine if and when your child is ready for a particular title.

Challenge and Extend Awareness at Home: Especially useful for families, this section offers more options for exploring justice cross-generationally, from a thirty-day prayer challenge to a YouTube video to an outing.

Making a Difference: This section includes various ideas for making a tangible difference as a family, group, or classroom. These are just suggestions, and their inclusion here is not an endorsement of each organization's overall faith or mission. Do the research to find those projects that best reflect your biblical convictions. Many religious organizations do amazing work. But don't be afraid to support a nonreligious organization; just because a mission is not preaching the gospel does not mean that they will be ineffective at using money wisely to dig wells or feed the hungry. Also, there's room to personalize this list, as most areas have amazing local organizations.

Throughout the book, you'll notice that I've included web addresses for organizations and links to helpful information. If the URLs become outdated, as all online information is prone to, there is no need to worry. Just visit my website (lisavanengen.com) and click the And Social Justice for All tab for direct links to both featured organizations and material, plus more that I become aware of.

While all of the material in the book can be used as stand-alone suggestions and ideas, I have included in appendix A information for how to organize social action groups in your own community, church, or school.

My Prayer

My prayer is for this book to be an encouragement to you and a resource to help you take small steps to fight injustice in your busy life. I hope you will mark up this book. Circle ideas. Put checkmarks next to the things you try. Write questions in the margins. Add your ideas. Dream. I hope you will visit my website and share the stories of what your family, classroom, or group talks about and tries.

My favorite part of this book ended up being the kids' quotes. They are brilliant, as we would expect. As I wrote this manuscript, the United States experienced discord. Kindness disappeared into the background, and the need for justice seekers became even more pronounced. Sometimes I desperately wanted to give up. I did not feel adequate. We received messages about not being "real Christians" due to my husband's work with refugees and

**Making a
difference means
helping someone
see something
they have not
seen before.**

—Rysa, age 13

immigrants. But each time I wanted to quit, another kid's survey response came in. I would be left stunned again by each young person's thoughtful response, wise insight, and simple profundity. Each time I was renewed. I wanted to do them justice.

1

Clean Water and Sanitation: Cracked Cisterns

When the well's dry they know the worth of water.

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, AMERICAN DIPLOMAT AND INVENTOR

Raise Awareness

March 14—International Day of Action for Rivers

March 22—World Water Day

October 15—Global Handwashing Day

November 19—World Toilet Day

Water refreshes and revives. Everyone can relate to desperate thirst and the quenching relief of a glass of water. Or to the irritation of dirt and grime and the pleasure of being clean once again. Or to the oppression of heat and the restorative comfort a dip in cool water can bring.

Or can they? Does everyone have ready access to clean water?

Our need for water weaves into our everyday life and is a necessity for survival. We use water for hydrating our bodies, cooking food, laundering clothes, washing dishes, practicing personal hygiene, cleaning our homes, watering our lawns and plants, and maintaining our sanitation systems, fire

protection, and power generation within our homes. Health, agriculture, energy, sanitation, manufacturing, and livestock all rely on accessible, clean water. For every living species, water is life. Without water we cannot survive. The average adult body is made of 50–65 percent water.¹ You can live upward of three weeks without food, but on average only three to four days without water.²

Understanding the Issue

When kids look at a globe, they see an abundance of water. We need to educate them that in reality, 97 percent of that water is ocean water, leaving

Dirty water is sick. It would make you die.

—Landon, age 3

around 3 percent as fresh water. Within that fresh water, 68.7 percent is locked in glaciers and icecaps, 30.1 percent is groundwater, and about 1.2 percent is surface water such as lakes, rivers, and swamps.³ If we look at those numbers, we realize that we have a responsibility to protect potable drinking water for ourselves as well as generations to come.

As the population of the world increases, so will the demand for clean water.

The per capita availability of drinking water is diminishing in all developed and developing nations.⁴ Physical water scarcity occurs when the demand for clean water exceeds the earth's ability to provide fresh water for all its inhabitants. Drought, changes in climate, overuse of resources, and pollution can all contribute to physical water scarcity. Population growth makes it difficult for certain areas to have access to all the clean water they need. In the western United States, many states have faced water shortages and have had to adjust life accordingly. Limits are placed on the amount of

To make a difference, be proactive.

—Dineo, age 11

water farmers can use, and in a trickle-down effect, this can result in increased food prices.

Economic water scarcity occurs when water distribution is allocated inequitably. The governments of some nations do not invest in infrastructure that allows for clean water access for everyone. Regions that are unstable due to war and conflict do not have reliable sources of water to meet the needed demand. Globally there are 263 transboundary lakes and river basins.⁵ For example, the longest

river in the world, the Nile, flows through Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan. Water sources that cross international boundaries are often at risk. Different nations do not always work together to preserve water, share water, or create quality regulations for water. Many people in poverty receive an unequal distribution of water. They live where there is no infrastructure to provide clean running water or sanitation facilities. In other areas, private companies can take over water systems and charge prices too high for those in poverty to afford their water bills.

Bringing clean water to every nation in the world looks different in each community. To reach aquifers, some places need to hand dig or drill wells. Other neighborhoods might use pipe networks, rainwater catchments, gravity-fed systems from elevated spaces, purification systems, biosand filters, rooftop rainwater harvesting, or water purification tablets. In Tanzania, Concern US uses the Moringa tree to purify water. Community members grind the tree's nuts into a powder that collects pollutants as it sinks down in a container, leaving the drinkable water on the surface. Nations that face conflict over water supplies are encouraged to work together to make water treaties before they find themselves in dire need.

Global Concerns

Although global statistics are improving each day, 2.1 billion people still lack safely managed drinking sources.⁶ Every day, 600 children die due to diarrhea caused by unsafe water or poor sanitation.⁷ Children under the age of five are particularly vulnerable to waterborne illnesses. Each year, children lose 443 million school days because of water-related illness.⁸ Imagine serving young children lunch and placing cups of dirty water beside their plates. They are thirsty and must drink, yet you know they might become ill from the invisible bacteria that swim within. In developed nations, people do not even fill the bowls of their pets with unclean water. Yet the reality of waterborne illnesses surrounds many families around the world.

**I like clean water.
Dirty water has
yucky germs.
Clean water
doesn't have
germs.
—Jack, age 7**

In developing nations, lack of education contributes to the consumption

of unclean water as well. People drink whatever water is available and may not understand that contaminated water can lead to disease or even death. Diarrhea is a common result of drinking unclean water and can lead to dehydration and death. Other waterborne illnesses include cholera, typhoid, Guinea worm, and hepatitis E. Lack of clean water then becomes a huge health-care issue and cost. Education as simple as hand washing makes a difference. When relief organizations bring latrines to communities, simple features like door locks, labels for women's and men's spaces, and toilet lids make a difference.

Imagine inadequate bathrooms for the children in your life. Many girls in the developing world are unable to continue schooling because of the lack of safe, private sanitation. According to the Gates Foundation, 40 percent of the world's population—2.5 billion people—lack adequate sanitation facilities or practice open defecation.⁹ Not everyone has a toilet to use or a faucet to wash his or her hands afterward. In areas of poverty, water tainted with garbage and human waste can run right through neighborhoods. Outbreaks of deadly diseases like Ebola and cholera are more likely to occur in these areas. The cost to build toilets, sewers, and wastewater treatment facilities are high but essential for the health, dignity, and safety of so many.

Consider the long walk for water many take in the developing world. Women and children tasked with water collection are not able to attend school or provide for families through paying work. Their walk for water also brings them to areas that make them vulnerable to human trafficking. The average steel jerrican holds five gallons of water, the equivalent of forty pounds.¹⁰ Imagine the stress on a woman's body making multiple trips throughout the day carrying water. Drought forces entire families and communities to walk for water through displacement. The UN Refugee Agency estimates 766,000 people were displaced in Somalia from drought since November 2016.¹¹

Next-Door Concerns

The water crisis in Flint, Michigan, shattered the assumption that all Americans have access to clean water. Two and a half hours from the city I live in, a new water pipeline in 2014 delivered highly polluted water with detected *E. coli* and total coliform bacteria to the residents of Flint. Citizens had to

present jugs of discolored water, children with rashes, and reports of mysterious illnesses before anyone would listen. The Environmental Protection Agency found high levels of lead in the water. Lead poisoning can severely affect mental and physical development, especially in children under six years old. Flint, an economically depressed city in the richest nation in the world, did not have access to clean water.

Other local waterways show stress as well. Due to a sixteen-year drought, “demand for Colorado River water is already stretched thin.”¹² The water level of the biggest reservoir in the western United States, Lake Mead, continues to decrease. In many cities, aging pipes are a growing concern. “In New York City, for instance, over eight million citizens rely on drinking water delivered primarily by two tunnels, one of which was completed in 1917 and the other in 1936.”¹³ Beaches and waterways close for a period due to polluted water with high levels of bacteria. Even in the United States we feel the strain of providing clean water for all citizens.

The 1974 Safe Water Drinking Act protects public drinking water through federal law. “In 2015, nearly 77 million Americans lived in places where the water systems were in some violation of safety regulations.”¹⁴ Our local water sources are at risk through chemical spills, aging infrastructure, and severe weather. Flooding can cause water contamination by fecal matter from farming areas running into water systems. During drought, farmers often turn to groundwater to irrigate their crops. Since 2015, California has experienced periodic mandatory statewide restrictions of water usage. A study in 2012 by the California State Water Control Board found that drought “raises the concentration of nitrates in the water left in the ground.”¹⁵ These local water concerns bring the global need for clean water and sanitation into even greater focus. Access to clean water will continue to be a concern into the future for the developing world and your community.

**I like clean water
because I can
drink it.
—Felix, age 5**

Hope

The organization Blood:Water, founded by the music group Jars of Clay and activist Jena Lee Nardella, focuses its efforts on providing access to clean

water and on training grassroots organizers and leaders in the areas where they work. They teach these leaders how to maintain and complete maintenance on their water systems. The work they do is then sustainable even when Blood:Water is not on-site. A charity called The Last Well models innovation by partnering with ten different organizations that bring water and the hope of Jesus to the country of Liberia. Working together, the ten groups and The Last Well demonstrate that partnerships make clean water efforts stronger and more sustainable over the course of time.

And while many organizations that work toward clean water focus efforts on rural areas, an organization called Splash has a different focus. Splash studies international hotels and restaurants that provide clean water to tourists around the world. When they find supply chains and resources that work well, they seek to replicate those solutions and bring clean water to citizens without access in those same areas. The founders of Splash firmly believe that everyone deserves equal access to clean water.

The prophet Amos lived during a time of economic prosperity. The rich forgot their calling and oppressed the poor. In Amos 5, the prophet reports that “the Lord, the LORD God Almighty, says: . . . ‘Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream’” (vv. 16, 24). God compared justice with the beauty of flowing waters. Fresh water brings with it health, hope, and the means for surviving and thriving. We can bring justice by fighting for access to clean water and sanitation for all of God’s people.

INNOVATION TO EXPLORE

- *Using Science:* Explore LifeStraw, a straw-like filter that purifies contaminated water.
- *Using Physics:* The Hippo Roller allows people to collect clean water by pushing five times more water than what a single bucket could hold.
- *Using Microfinance:* WaterCredit offers small, easy-to-repay loans through Water.org to help global families realize their dream of clean water and sanitation. When repaid, the loan passes to another family in need.
- *Using Technical Studies:* Check out the work of Plumbers Without Borders. Plumbers install water purifiers for those in need of clean water.

- *Using Climate:* In foggy climates, mesh nets have been used to trap and collect water from the moisture in fog. The largest harvesting project produces 6,300 liters of water per day on Mount Boutmezguida, Morocco.

Appreciate the Beautiful Waters of Our World

Check out books from your local library or use the internet to explore:

- The blue lagoons of the Cook Islands in the South Pacific
- Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe
- The turquoise Peyto Lake in Alberta, Canada
- Perito Moreno Glacier in Argentina
- The colorful river Caño Cristales in Colombia
- Mekong River in Southeast Asia

TALK JUSTICE

Ages 3–6

What do you use water for in your life? Name everything you need water for.

How many water faucets are in your house? How many toilets?

Where is your favorite place to play in water (a lake, river, pool, splash pad)?

How often do you take a bath? Why is it important to take a bath?

How would drinking dirty water make you feel?

Ages 7–11

How would your life change if you only had one water faucet in your house?

How much time would it take, and what challenges might you face, gathering water every day at a community well half a mile from your home?

Where does your water come from?

Can you describe a time when you were really thirsty and didn't have water with you?

Why do you think clean water is so important to the people of the world?

Ages 12+

How would you use water differently if it took time and effort to obtain it?

How can you use the resource of water in a way that honors God?

When a country shares its source of water, what challenges might they face?

What actions could you take to conserve water in your own home?

How are water and sanitation connected?

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Jeremiah 2:13

My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

A cistern is a tank for storing water. A cracked cistern is useless because water leaks out and soaks into the earth, where it cannot be used. Our heart can either be full of Jesus's "living water" or it can be a "cracked cistern." When we do not focus on Jesus, we think more and more about ourselves. The more we think about ourselves, the less we think about the people God has put in our lives. Our world becomes narrow and focused inward. Keeping the gifts we have been given for ourselves only results in cracked, broken hearts. Our love for others leaks out, and we become much like a cracked cistern, dried up and unusable.

When we fill our hearts with love for Jesus, however, we become more like a fountain of living water. Our love overflows, and we can offer it to others. We learn that we have more than enough to give. When we give our hearts fully to Jesus, he will help us open them up to others. When we help others—working, for example, to give them access to clean water—they can also know the living water of hope that is Jesus.

Extend Study of God's Word

Read different translations of Jeremiah 2:13.

What does it mean to forsake God? How could we do the opposite in our daily lives?

What is one way you could focus on following Jesus every day?

What crack could you repair in your own heart?

Where could the love of Jesus spill out in your own life?

Choose an organization that supports clean water and sanitation that your family or group can pray for:

Choose a specific community or place in need of clean water and sanitation that your family or group can pray for:

God, thank you for the clean water we have to drink and use. We pray for clean water for everyone on our planet. Help us care for the water we have. Show us where we can make a difference in the work

*of bringing clean water and sanitation to those who don't have access.
When we offer the gift of clean water, help others feel your light and
hope. Amen.*

EXPLORE JUSTICE

Ages 3–6

Read: *Clean Water for Elirose* by Aariah Fine

Maria and her friends learn about a young girl without clean drinking water and decide to help.

Connection—A simple story with sweet illustrations, enabling even the youngest children to understand they can make a difference by helping kids have access to clean water.

Read: *The Water Princess* by Susan Verde

Princess Gie Gie longs to bring clean water to her small African village. Based on the childhood of supermodel Georgie Badiel.

Connection—Children learn about the struggle for clean water and the hope that someday all who need it might receive access.

Play: Toilet Paper Toss

Gather supplies: a five-gallon bucket, five toilet paper rolls, clear packing tape.

- Set a five-gallon bucket a few feet from where you intend to play the game.
- Completely wrap five rolls of toilet paper with clear packing tape.
- Instruct kids to stand a certain distance from the bucket (experiment ahead of time to find an appropriate range).
- Mark the distance with sidewalk chalk if outside or masking tape if inside.
- Give each child three chances to toss the toilet paper roll into the bucket.

Connection—If you did not have water, how would you flush your toilet? What would happen if you couldn't flush your toilet? Children understand how water impacts sanitation.

Play: Pin the Bucket on the Well

Gather supplies: poster board, double-sided tape, construction paper, poster putty, blindfolds.

- Draw a large water well on poster board and tape it to a wall.
- Make numerous five-inch buckets out of construction paper; affix double-sided tape or poster putty to the back of each bucket.
- Blindfold participants one at a time to see who can pin the bucket closest to the center of the well (experiment ahead of time to find an appropriate starting distance from the wall).

Connection—Without a water well, villagers need to walk long distances to collect water from streams, rivers, or lakes. Wells make it easier for families to collect water in buckets to bring home to use. Water from wells is also clean, so families don't need to worry about getting sick from using it.

Observe: Dirty Water Visual

Gather supplies: clear plastic bottle with cap, water, various “pollutants” such as food scraps, dirt, oil.

- Fill a clear bottle with water and pollutants.
- Show the mixture to the children.
- Pass the bottle around and let each child have a turn to take a closer look and move the things inside.

Connection—This is what unclean water looks like. Could you wash a cut with this water? Would you drink this water? What about taking a bath in it?

Experiment: Germ Monsters

Gather supplies: glitter, paper towel, water, hand soap.

- Sprinkle glitter on kids' hands. Tell them to imagine the glitter is germs.
- First, encourage the kids to get the glitter off by wiping their hands together.

- Second, give them each a paper towel and see if they can get all the glitter off.
- Finally, have them use water and soap to remove the glitter.

Connection—Water and soap are necessary for cleaning our bodies and getting rid of germs. What do you think people would do if they did not have water for washing hands or taking a bath? If you did not have water for washing hands or taking a bath, how would you complete these tasks?

Play: Water Sensory Box

Gather supplies: shallow plastic tub, water, craft sticks, small cups, various “pollutants” such as glitter, sand, rocks, dirt, shredded paper, feathers, beads, leaves, or pom-poms.

- Create a sensory box using a shallow tub.
- Fill the tub with water.
- Provide children with various “pollutants” to add to the tub.
- Give each child a craft stick and small cup to observe through play.

Connection—We started out with fresh, clean water in our tub. After we add more and more objects, the water becomes polluted. Could you drink the water? Would you take a bath in this water? Would you boil macaroni noodles in the water?

Ages 7–11

Read: *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth* by Rochelle Strauss

“All water on earth is connected, so there really is just one source—one global well—from which we all draw our water.” *One Well* studies the interconnectedness of water.

Connection—The way we protect water will affect our planet into the future. One Well helps children understand the urgency of conserving and caring for our global water supply.

Read: *Ryan and Jimmy: And the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together* by Herb Shoveller

As a six-year-old, Ryan raised money for a well in Agweo, Uganda. Jimmy from Uganda hopes to thank Ryan for the village well. They eventually meet and form a lasting bond.

Connection—An example of how one boy helped a community and made a difference—and how, in the process, his own life was changed.

Play: Transporting Water Relay Race

Gather supplies: two jerricans or two five-gallon buckets, water.

Most hardware stores carry jerricans for purchase. They provide a great visual representation for kids.

- Create two teams of children.
- Fill up two jerricans or five-gallon buckets about halfway with water (experiment ahead of time, but a full jerrican is usually too heavy for children to lift).
- Have each child take a turn carrying the jerrican to a predetermined spot.
- The child turns around to carry the can back to the next person in line.
- The first team to have all its participants carry the jerrican completes the mission.

Connection—Globally many women and children must walk to collect clean water. They walk a long way to fill up their jerrican, and then must carry it home for drinking, bathing, and cooking. How would you like to do this every day?

Experiment: Water Cycle in a Baggie

Gather supplies: clear resealable baggies, tape, permanent markers, water, blue food coloring.

- Give each child some permanent markers and a baggie.
- Instruct children to use their markers to decorate their baggie with water, sun, and clouds.
- Carefully pour about two inches of water into the bottom of the baggie, add 1–2 drops of blue dye, and fully seal the baggie.
- Tape the baggie (along the seal) to a window that is exposed to sunlight.
- Watch water droplets form and try touching them to create rain.

Connection—Talk about the water cycle. How is all water (groundwater, rain, rivers, lakes, oceans) connected? If our water is constantly recycled, why do we need to take good care of it?

Create: String Art

Gather supplies: foam board, pushpins, colorful thread.

- Artists design a wave of pushpins inserted into foam board.
- Weave string around the pins to create string art.

Try string art with other symbols of justice issues.

Connection—Artists use their creativity to feature water in an art piece. Encourage them to add a message to the artwork by sharing a statistic or a call to action to contribute to the work of providing clean water for those without.

Create: Writing

Gather supplies: paper, pens and pencils.

- Prompt: My water has been . . .

Connection—Encourage writers to imagine where the water they drink has been: a far-off country, a layer of a glacier, a swimming pool across the world, a water fountain in a school.

Always provide a time and place for writers to share their work if they wish to.

Create: Clean Water and Sanitation Story Stones

Gather supplies: flat stones, acrylic paint of various colors, paintbrushes, decoupage, magazines, scissors.

- Use flat stones and paint or decoupage clean water images on each rock.
- Ideas: well, jerrican, fire with a bucket hanging over it, raindrops, waves, faucet, a village, a toilet, little girl or boy carrying water. Encourage children to use the story stones to tell a story about clean water and sanitation.

Find story stone ideas for all the chapter themes at lisavanengen.com.

Connection—Telling stories helps children explore, learn, and apply what they are learning about the need for global clean water.

Ages 12+

Read: *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park

Alternating stories of two eleven-year-olds from Sudan, one a refugee who walks the African continent seeking safety and the other who walks two hours twice a day for clean water.

Connection—Readers are exposed to the reality of refugees and the daily collection of water, concluding in an inspiring ending that offers hope.

Observe: Study Art

Study *Under the Wave off Kanagawa* (also known as *The Great Wave*) by Katsushika Hokusai. (Images are easy to find on the internet.)

Connection—Contemplate the power of water through this woodblock print of Japanese art. Besides being physically powerful, how else does water have power in our lives?

Create: Writing

Gather supplies: paper, pens and pencils.

- Prompt: Water is . . .

Connection—Writers express their ideas about what water means to the world and its people.

Find a list of social media posts for all the topics in *And Social Justice for All* at lisavanengen.com.

Connect: Clean Water Social Media Blast

Find a list of ready-to-go social media blasts on my website.

Connection—Young people use their social media accounts for good by advocating for clean water and sanitation globally.

Experiment: Rain Gauge

Gather supplies: empty two-liter pop bottle, marker, small stones, masking tape, ruler, scissors or knife, paper, pencil or pen.

- Cut the top off the bottle.
- Put a piece of masking tape up the side of the pop bottle, beginning at the top and ending near the bottom. Using your ruler and a marker, mark inches or centimeters on the tape, beginning near the bottom and working your way up.
- Fill the bottom of the bottle with stones.
- Fill the bottle with water until it is level with the bottom of the masking tape.
- Place the rain gauge outside where falling rain will not be affected by buildings, trees, or anything that would hinder its collection.
- Make a chart to keep track of the rain levels. Read and record the level of water in the gauge each day.

Connection—Analyze and better understand the rainwater data in the area you live in. How does this data compare with other parts of your state, other states, or other countries?

Connect: Beverage Challenge

Gather friends for a beverage challenge. Set a goal to drink only water for one week—no other beverages. When the week is over, tally up the money you saved by not purchasing soda, coffee, or juice during that week. Combine those resources and donate them to an organization that supports clean water.

Connection—Students learn how much on average they spend on beverages other than water during a week. Students share resources to support a cause. Is this challenge something you would repeat in the future?

Study: The Nile River

Research the transboundary Nile River and the Entebbe Agreement of 2010. Consider the challenges nations that share water sources face.

Connection—Students learn about transboundary water conflicts and the challenges they present to all nations to receive equal access to clean water.

CHALLENGE AND EXTEND AWARENESS AT HOME

- Read “30 Mealtime Clean Water Facts,” found at lisavanengen.com.
- Practice “30 Days of Prayer for Clean Water,” found at lisavanengen.com.
- Calculate your water usage as a family at watercalculator.org.
- Complete challenges from “100 Ways to Conserve Water” on the Water: Use It Wisely website (wateruseitwisely.com).
- Make the kitchen faucet in your home off-limits for water usage for a day. To get water, family members need to use an alternate tap in your home or outdoors. Talk about how it feels to have to work extra for your water, and remember families that have to walk for miles to obtain clean water.
- Look through photo galleries of the stories of water through Blue Planet Network.
- Read stories, accompanied by photography, on the Charity: Water website (charitywater.org).
- Introduce younger children to Raya, the sanitation global ambassador for Sesame Street (sesameworkshop.org).
- Watch the short video “The Long Walk” and others at the Blood:Water Mission YouTube channel.
- Watch videos from the Water.org YouTube channel.

We have the ability to provide clean water for every man, woman and child on the Earth. What has been lacking is the collective will to accomplish this. What are we waiting for? This is the commitment we need to make to the world, now.

—JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU, FRENCH EXPLORER

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Work with your church, school, or community building to identify leaky faucets and inefficient toilets.
- Bring safe water to an individual through Water.org.
- Encourage personal reusable water bottles instead of bottled water at events.
- Host a Water:Walk to raise funds for Blood:Water Mission (bloodwater.org).
- Take the Ryan’s Well Foundation School Challenge with your school (ryanswell.ca).
- Fund a project through Blue Planet Network.
- Purchase a latrine through World Renew gift catalog (worldrenew.net).
- Support water and sanitation through World Vision (donate.worldvision.org).
- Take the water challenge from The Water Project by drinking only water for two weeks to free up money to give one person access to clean water (thewaterproject.org).
- Contribute to the UNICEF Tap Project, providing clean water to more than 100 countries (unicef.org).

For direct links to any of these resources plus additional materials, go to lisavanengen.com and click the And Social Justice for All tab.

Local Ideas

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