

“Thirst(+y?)”

Activity

Supplies needed: small containers, measuring cup(s), lots of new ice cubes in an ice bucket or cooler, glasses of water for winning group members.

As youth enter the space, do not allow any beverages in room or trips to the drinking fountain. Divide youth into equal groups of 3 – 6. Each person has to do 75 jumping jacks (or similar heat producing activity) before starting! Explain that it will help them in the contest that follows. Give each group 5 new, equally sized ice cubes in a small container. Next, teams are given 5 minutes to melt as much of the ice as possible. No water, crushing, chipping, fans, or fire are allowed. After 5 minutes, the group with the most water wins. The members of the winning group each get large glasses of ice water for each person. Talk about how it felt to have to wait for water, what it was like to receive water as a reward and how it felt not to have water when thirsty. Let everyone make a trip to the drinking fountain before beginning discussion below.

Dive In

1. Reflect on the theme of this year's Celebration of Confirmation, “Thirst(+y?).” Discuss what thoughts come to mind about why this may have been chosen for the title. How does it feel to be thirsty?
2. How many different kinds of “thirst” can you identify? (ex: “thirst for knowledge”) When you are thirsty in these ways, where do you go to quench your thirst?
3. We hear about issues related to water in the news, every day. But water is not just a trendy subject or a current event. It is linked to our humanity, our health, our livelihood, our very existence. How many times do you think that the following words appear in the Bible?

___ water ___ ocean ___ sea ___ river ___ stream ___ rain ___ baptism

Go online to WikiAnswers.com to check your answers. What does this tell you about God's view of the importance of water?

4. A watershed is a basin-like land form that has high points and ridge lines that descend into lower areas. It carries water which is “shed” from land after rain and snow. Drop by drop, water is channeled into soil, then groundwater, creeks and streams, larger rivers, and eventually into the oceans. The most important thing about watersheds is that what we do on land affects the water quality of all communities of life downstream. What communities of life do your watersheds link you to? What is your role in that link?
5. Read John 7:38. What kind of water is Jesus referring to? If you were to imagine a “spiritual watershed” with yourself as a single drop of water, who would be the groundwater, streams, larger rivers, and oceans? How are you linked to them? How do the waters of your baptism link you to these spiritual waters?

6. For most nations, economic development is linked to the availability and quality of water. Although we all need water on a daily basis, we can often take this vital commodity for granted – particularly in regions with a natural abundance of water. We forget that, in many regions, the availability of water is a matter of life and death. It is hard to think of anything else when one is thirsty or when the only water source available causes chronic illness. Women and children often walk for several hours each day to bring water to their families. What things are they missing out on in life when 2- 7 hours is spent hauling water daily?
7. Have you ever read the Bible story about Jesus and the woman at the well? Where water is scarce, the well is still a common place of gathering, kind of like the mall in your town. Here is her story. Because of her lowly status, a Samaritan woman went to a well owned by Jacob, during the hottest point of the day in order to avoid encountering or being talked about by others. She did not fit in, socially. She knew that most others would not go out in the noonday sun so she seized the opportunity to get the necessary water for her home without being looked down upon. Jews did not normally travel on a Samaritan road but Jesus chose to go that way, anyway. When he came upon the well, he met the Samaritan woman and asked her for some water. The woman was astonished that a pious Jewish man would request water from her. Jesus put her mind at ease. Read John 4:10-15. In your words, what did Jesus offer her at the well?
8. Jesus acknowledged that he knew of the woman's shortcomings but did not turn her away. She was amazed at Jesus' knowledge of who she was and the kindness he showed her, despite her ways. She wanted to hear more from him. Read John 4:23-27 to hear what else Jesus said to her. How are you like the woman at the well? How are we all like her? How are we different?
9. Read John 4:28-33. Why do you think she left her water jar behind? Why do you think that the same townspeople who rejected her, followed her back to see Jesus? The woman who had not led a sinless life and who was judged by others, affected Jesus in a way that even his closest friends could not easily comprehend. Why do you suppose that was? What food was Jesus referring to? In what way was the woman changed? What is in this story for you, personally?

Dive Deeper

Read: Genesis 1:2, Mark 1:9-11, Rev 21:5-6, Rev 22:1-3

