

### PREPARATION

- [Visit the Helping-Hand Appeal](#) for more information and the resources available to customise your session or to help plan running another session later in the year
- Prepare to develop some fundraising ideas with your group and plan these for throughout the year
- Provide Helping-Hand clean water money-box wrappers for members
- [Print or download copies of Prayer Matters](#), the week of 30 Jan – 5 Feb 2023
- Prepare to show the Helping-Hand Appeal Clean Water video
- A large sheet of paper and craft resources for your group to make a communal poster
- Create a water-based quiz. Here are some online ones to help you get started.
  - Visit [Proprofs.com](#) for a range of multiple-choice questions
  - Visit [Freepubquiz.co.uk](#) for trivia questions

### INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

The Salvation Army is a global movement and supports community development programmes around the world – helping people to overcome the poverty and injustice they are experiencing, to build a better life and future. The Salvation Army International Development UK works alongside communities on projects in six focus areas: food security, clean water, income generation, anti-human trafficking, emergency response and gender justice.

This year the Helping-Hand Appeal is focusing on clean water. The Salvation Army works with communities around the world where water vulnerability is a daily reality, to improve access to clean water and adequate sanitation. We believe this will help communities become healthier and release time to focus on other activities.

Clean water is more than a drink on a hot day. It means children thriving. It is continued education. It is time to build your business. It is the potential for equal opportunities. It is economic independence. Water is more than a drink. Water is life!



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## ACTIVITIES

### FUNDRAISE

As a group, plan some fundraising ideas for throughout the year to support the projects that The Salvation Army is working on. For example, on World Toilet Day (19 November) you can support The Salvation Army's clean water projects by donating £1 for every time you use the loo! Or if you can't wait ... get started straight away!

Here are some fundraising goals:

- £15 could give a person clean water for life through access to a sand dam
- £45 could provide training in the maintenance of boreholes
- £470 could construct a toilet in a school
- £1,450 could install a shallow well alongside a sand dam

### Money-box wrapper

A money-box wrapper is available on the Helping-Hand website. Perhaps you could print and distribute those for individuals to wrap around a container to use for collecting change all year round.

### PRAYER

[Prayer Matters](#) is a daily prayer resource created by The Salvation Army to inform, encourage and disciple, and to ensure that the UK and Ireland Territory is immersed in prayer. The week 30 Jan – 5 Feb 2023 focuses on the Helping-Hand Appeal. Use these prayers as you feel appropriate during your session, perhaps giving them out for different people to read.

### SHARE

Ask members to think back to last summer. This was a time when water supplies were at risk in many areas of the UK, reservoirs, lakes and rivers were dangerously low and there was not a cloud in the sky. Encourage members to reminisce together.

Share with the group that, even now, some areas of the UK are still suffering from water vulnerability. However, we do know that the rain will come, that almost all the time safe, clean tap water will arrive in our homes without any effort from us other than turning on the tap. We know that we can easily enjoy that refreshing drink on a hot day or a lovely cup of hot tea on a cold one.

Ask members to share how their days and nights would be impacted if they did not have access to local clean water.



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## CLEAN WATER

Here's what Grace Mutiso, who is the chairlady at Kilome Sand Dam where The Salvation Army works to support communities, dreamed about:

*'My dream – if I could access water – was to plant vegetables to sell, and plant trees to change our local area. I could farm and earn income. I could then make bricks to build a good house.'*

Maybe Grace's concerns are very different from ours, but the outcomes of a lack of accessible clean water are the same the world over – exhaustion, low motivation, illness, disease and eventually death due to dehydration and waterborne bacteria and pests.

### Something to think about

What feels rare in your life, and what would your dream be if you had access to the one thing that you need?

## DISCUSS

Watch the [Helping-Hand Appeal Clean Water introductory video](#) (2 mins 28 secs).

After the video, discuss with your group what:

- resonated with them as they watched
- did they enjoy
- made them feel sad or angry
- surprised them
- challenged them

Here are some points you might want to draw out in the conversation:

- Clean water in a local community transforms the lives of everyone. No one is excluded.
- The issue of climate change and the threat that brings.
- The threat to the safety of the women and girls who have to collect the water.
- The far-reaching benefits of clean locally accessible water.

## TAGLINE

The tagline for Clear Water appeal is:

*'Water is more than a drink. It is children thriving. It is continued education. It is time to build your business. It is the potential for equal opportunities. It is economic independence. Water is life!'*



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Challenge your group to make a large poster together, focusing on the tagline. Encourage your group to illustrate and decorate the poster to bring these words to life. Display the artwork whenever you meet this year.

Alternatively, why not create the tagline into a memory challenge! One way to do this is to display the tagline, but before you meet cover up a key word or phrase, perhaps with a piece of blue paper like a puddle or raindrop.


## QUIZ

Organise a water-based quiz. For example from: [Proprofs.com](http://Proprofs.com) or [Freepubquiz.co.uk](http://Freepubquiz.co.uk).

## BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

We remember the heat and drought of last summer. There will have been other occasions too when there might have been standpipes in your local community, when the traditional way of getting a drink of water was interrupted and very inconvenient.

You might have lived overseas at some point, when the seasons were very different from our temperate climate, which dictated your relationship with water. And who knew that one day we would be able to buy bottles of water, water that is claimed to have been filtered through mineral-rich rocks to provide even more goodness and sometimes an added fizz?

 'You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry parched land where there is no water'

(Psalm 63:1)

Our Scripture from Psalms describes the reality for the people that we have learned something about today. We have seen the earnest search for water; the importance of safely commuting this precious load back to the family; and the time, sacrifice and effort involved. We have also witnessed the delight and celebration of knowing that The Salvation Army's project has been completed and that the water source is now nearby, accessible and personal.

We can superimpose that illustration over our search for God. Are we thirsty for him? What could we do – or have we done anything and everything we can – to find him, to be restored by him, to know the ongoing and everlasting power of his personal presence in our lives?


Perhaps next time we are thirsty or even when we are delighted by a lovely cup of tea, it can be a reminder to be thankful that God is close, and our needs are met in him.



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 'Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland.  
The wild animals honour me,  
the jackals and the owls,  
because I provide water in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland,  
to give drink to my people, my chosen,  
the people I formed for myself  
that they may proclaim my praise.'

(Isaiah 43:18-21)

In this Scripture from Isaiah, the water comes supernaturally from God's provision to the most unlikely of places – the wilderness and the wasteland. Of course, God is at work through The Salvation Army and similar organisations, and the provision of water to communities like the ones we have seen today is literal. But what about us?

Where might the wildernesses and wastelands be in our life, our family, our community, the place where we live and maybe volunteer? Can we notice and perceive the places where God is refreshing and renewing, celebrating when it happens? Or are we aware of a hardness, a sense of grief, a difficult relationship, an ongoing conflict that could do with a resolution?

Isaiah goes on to say that God's provision of water and spiritual refreshment is to:

 'give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise'

(Isaiah 43:20-21)

The challenge for us, his people, is to proclaim his praise and share the good news of the refreshment that we find in him whenever we can. And maybe, over the next few days, especially when that's prompted by a lovely drink of water or a delicious cuppa!

## PRAYER

Finish with a time of prayer – your own, from a member, or choose one from [Prayer Matters](#).



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## SONGS

- 🎵 SASB 571 '[As the deer pants for the water](#)'
- 🎵 SASB 430 '[Life is a journey, long is the road](#)'
- 🎵 SoF 1193 'Blessed be your name' [Congregational lyric video](#) or [lockdown version](#).
- 🎵 SASB 582 '[Father we love you](#)'
- 🎵 SASB 32 '[How deep the Father's love for us](#)'

## WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

Connect website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect)

Family Ministries website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families)

International Development website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id)

### Family Ministries

Email: [familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk)

Facebook: [sarmyfm](https://www.facebook.com/sarmyfm)

Twitter: [ukifamily](https://twitter.com/ukifamily)

Instagram: [safamily\\_ministries](https://www.instagram.com/safamily_ministries)

### International Development UK

Email: [id@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:id@salvationarmy.org.uk)

Facebook: [salvationarmyid](https://www.facebook.com/salvationarmyid)

Twitter: [salvationarmyid](https://twitter.com/salvationarmyid)

Instagram: [thesalvationarmyid](https://www.instagram.com/thesalvationarmyid)



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