

# Sunday School Lessons



## Youth/Older Children Lesson

### All the Water in the World (15 minutes)

This activity shows how much of the water in the world is fresh and drinkable. It shows how much water is tied up in oceans, glaciers, ground water, surface water, and the atmosphere.

**Supplies:** 5-gallon bucket, pint glass, small 8-12oz drinking cup, straw, water, dry erase/chalk board and markers/chalk

### Activity:

Fill a 5-gallon bucket up, not to the top but close, with water before class starts. Explain that the water in the bucket represents all the water found on the earth. Ask the students to come up with guesses on the percentage of water found in the following: ocean, icecaps/glaciers, ground water, surface water (lakes and rivers), and atmosphere. Have them come to a consensus and write the percentages for all to see.

WATER SOURCE	Class guess-percentage	Actual Percentage
Ocean		97.24%
Glacier/Ice Caps		2.14%
Ground Water		.61%
Surface Water- (rivers, lakes)		.009%
Atmosphere		.001%

- Remove a pint glass full of water from the bucket, which represents all the non-ocean water. Everything left in the bucket is ocean water.
- Using the pint glass fill a small 8-12oz cup halfway and everything left in the tall glass represents the water in glaciers and ice caps.
- Now, put a straw in the cup and put your finger over the end. The water left in the small cup represents ground water and the water in the straw is the surface and atmospheric water.
- After doing this demonstration, ask the students to make new guesses and then go over the actual percentages.

### Questions:

What did you learn about water during this activity?

Why is water important to life? Why does it matter?

How many different Bible stories or verses can we think of that involve water?

**Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-2**

*But now, says the Lord—  
the one who created you, Jacob,  
the one who formed you, Israel:  
Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched  
and flame won't burn you.*

**Lesson:**

This scripture is awesome because it outlines incredible truths about God. God is saying, through the prophet Isaiah, that God is the one who created us, formed us, redeemed us and calls us by name.

Let's break those down...

What do you think it means when we say God created us? Formed us? Redeemed us? Calls us by name?

(Let the students discuss what they think each statement means and how that makes them feel)

Then the scripture goes on to say

*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched  
and flame won't burn you."*

There's that water reference! Have you ever seen a flash flood? They are intense! They come out of nowhere and can cause mass destruction. These are the types of waters I imagine that this verse is talking about. I imagine a river with fast moving, deep waters. Can life ever feel that way?

The amazing thing about this verse is that God makes a promise, "I will be with you", when life feels like a flash flood, overwhelming, scary and ready to drown us.

This is a verse of comfort given to us to make us bold. We are reminded that we belong to God and that God stands with us when things get hard.

**Gretna Glen Tie-in:**

This summer at Gretna Glen, our theme is *Water of Life*. The all the Water in the World activity showed us how important water is to life and how precious it is. Christians use water to talk about their faith and even Jesus used it to describe the love and grace he provides calling it "living water". At camp this summer we will learn more stories and verse that use water as a metaphor and discover more truths about the "Living Water" God provides. We would love to see you/help you get to camp this summer so you can join in the fun, sun and waters of Gretna Glen!

## **Young Children Lesson**

### **Supplies:**

Parachute, large tarp or blanket

### **Waves Activity:**

While holding the parachute tightly, participants move their arms up and down to make small and large waves. Ask them to make the surface of the parachute look like different bodies of water. (stream, lake, pool, stormy day at the beach extra)

### **Camp Treasure Hunt:**

Place a variety of 'camp treasures' (flashlight, back pack, bible, etc.) into a treasure box under the parachute. Make waves (above) as if in a Storm. Send divers to retrieve called out items one by one from the box.

Then go over each item the divers brought up and ask the kids what the item might be used for at camp. Ask them what else they might pack/need to be a good camper.

### **Scripture: Isaiah 43:2**

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched  
and flame won't burn you.*

### **Lesson:**

Have you ever seen a storm on the ocean or a flooded river? Has it ever rained really hard at your house? Have you ever seen waves like the ones we made with the parachute?

Fast, deep water can be scary. That's why there are lifeguards at the beach or a pool. Does life ever feel like that? Scary and overwhelming? In the scripture, we hear God make us a promise to be with us in the waters and that the rivers won't sweep us away. When things get scary and overwhelming God is there with us. That's an amazing promise.

### **Gretna Glen Tie-In:**

This summer at Gretna Glen we will be learning Bible stories every day that have water in them, either as a real part of the story or as a metaphor, like in our verse from Isaiah. These stories about water have a lot to teach us about God's love. We would love to see you/help you get to camp this summer so you can join in the fun, sun and waters of Gretna Glen!

### All the Water in the World—Optional Starting Activity:

This is a simple map of the world called an Authagraph. It is believed to be the most accurate depiction of the sizes, locations, and shapes of our world (aside from a globe). We are going to use this to learn about how much of the earth's surface is covered by water.

- Cut out the map shown below (it won't work if you leave it on this page).
- Pass the map around and ask the students to close their eyes and then place all 10 fingers blindly on the map. Once they have done this, they should open their eyes and count how many fingers are TOUCHING water, even a little counts. (They should average between 6 and 8 fingers touching water each time).
- Keep track of the average number of fingers, and then ask them what their guess is – how much of the earth's surface is covered by water?
- Once they have made their guess you can share the actual percentage: 71% - that means all 7.95 BILLION people on Earth are sharing just 29% of the real estate. Wait until we find out just how much freshwater they all have to share! (next activity)

