

# Junior Soldiers

Unit 9 : Lesson 8



## Sanitation!

**PURPOSE :** For the children to explore and understand that access to clean water is a significant problem around the world and that there are many ways we can help.

‘Set up a place outside the camp to be used as a toilet area. And make sure that you have a small shovel in your equipment. When you go out to the toilet area, use the shovel to dig a hole. Then, after you relieve yourself, bury the waste in the hole. You must keep your camp clean of filthy and disgusting things. The Lord is always present in your camp, ready to rescue you and give you victory over your enemies. But if he sees something disgusting in your camp, he may turn around and leave.’

Deuteronomy 23:12-14 (CEV)

## Consider & Prepare

### Read:

Deuteronomy 23:12-14  
Galatians 6:2  
John 13:34-35  
Proverbs 3:27

Today's lesson has a social justice focus and looks specifically at the issue of poor access to safe water. It is really important for us to spend time with our children looking at the reality of these situations around our world as well as how we can respond in a God-honouring way.

In Australia, with our stringent building and town planning regulations, we do not commonly experience poor quality of water. However, this is not the same throughout our world. Poor economy, education and town planning often mean that people do not have reliable and safe access to water.

Many web sites have relevant statistics on this topic, one example is [www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea\\_acc\\_to\\_san-health-access-to-sanitation](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_acc_to_san-health-access-to-sanitation):

- More than one billion people worldwide live without access to safe drinking water.
- 40% of the world lives without adequate sanitation.

- Only 15% of the world's population have the luxury of water on tap.
- The average person in the Australia uses 282 litres of water every day; the average person in the developing world uses just 10 litres.
- Every 15 seconds, a child dies from diseases caused by lack of water.
- Unsafe drinking water and poor living conditions kill 4,000 children every day.

There is very little teaching in the Bible about sanitation apart from the verses noted above. The Israelites were given these clear instructions thousands of years ago. However, there is much to say in the Bible about our responsibility to love and care for others.

What responsibility do we have to ensure that everyone has adequate sanitation today? Verse 14 in Deuteronomy 23 talks about how this command was given to keep the camp holy, but the practice would also have kept the camp healthy.

God was aware of the need for good sanitation long before people understood about the diseases caused by it. Physical cleanness is linked to moral holiness.

Do our sanitation practices and personal hygiene show that we care about our own health and the health of our families? Does our way of life cause others to suffer illness because of lack of hygiene in and around our homes?

Note that the lack of access to water and sanitation for some children in the world may be disturbing for some children in your group and, so, could be a sensitive topic to address. In this lesson we have chosen to focus on a topic where good progress has been seen so the challenges can also be pitted against positive change that is happening. We want our kids to have a courageous hope as we wrestle with the challenges in our world.

Other resource sites

<http://www.tear.org.au/projects/focus/water-sanitation>

[http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea\\_acc\\_to\\_san-health-access-to-sanitation](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_acc_to_san-health-access-to-sanitation)

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/emergencies/congo/pumping-water-lake-kivu-bulengo-camp>

### What you will need:

#### For 'Connecting In'

- Roll of masking tape,
- Some rolls of toilet paper,
- A stop watch or time keeper
- Bible

#### For 'The Main Thing'

- A large tray to hold sand
- Heaps of sand (20 kg is about \$6 from Bunnings)
- Food colouring
- A cardboard roll
- Water in a container

#### For 'Tying In'

- Butchers paper and textas

#### For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards for each child.



# Connecting In

## 'Toilet, toilet, flush'

As children are arriving, have them join in on a game of 'toilet, toilet, flush' (it's played the same as duck, duck, goose, but with different words).

To play this game, have the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to be the person who is it. Walking on the outside of the circle, they gently place their hand on each child's shoulder as they move around the circle, saying 'toilet' each time. They keep on saying toilet until they finally choose a person by saying 'flush'. At this point, the person who is it must run as fast as they can whilst being chased by the person who has been 'flushed' around the outside of the circle to arrive at the space where the other person (the flushed person) was sitting. If they make it around before the person chasing them then the other person is now in. If they are caught/tug, then they are still in and must begin the game again.



**Link...** 'Well, we've had some fun playing a different version of duck, duck, goose today using the words toilet, toilet, flush. We are going to explore an issue today that affects lots of people in our world and it involves toilets; not only toilets but a lack of access to clean water. I wonder how you might feel if you couldn't have clean water to have a shower, cook, drink or wash your clothes. Well, there are lots of people who face this problem every day. Today we will look at how this affects some people but also as people who are followers of Jesus, what our responsibility might be.'

## Wrapped up relay...

You will need a Bible, toilet paper, masking tape and a watch with a second hand/or timer for this activity. You will also need to create two parallel masking tape lines on the floor, a few metres apart.

- Help the children form two teams and take their shoes off.
- Have each team stand in lines behind one of the masking tape lines, facing the other line.
- Tell the children that each team member will run, one at a time, to the far line and back. No one may run, however, until both their feet are completely wrapped in toilet paper, each foot separately so that they can still run. Only one person in each team may have both feet wrapped at any time.
- Give each team some rolls of toilet paper.
- Encourage the children to help each other wrap the first runner's feet. When the runner has the run to the other line and back, encourage the children to help wrap the next runner's feet.
- While the second runner runs, children will help the first runner to unwrap his/her feet.
- You might like to have the relay twice, encouraging teams to improve on their times.

**Link...** 'Well I hope you had some fun running with your feet wrapped in very special shoes today.

- If your feet were wrapped in toilet paper today, I wonder what topic you think that we might be exploring.
- When you helped one another today, the job of wrapping feet went faster. How does serving others make life easier?

We are going to explore an issue today that affects lots of people in our world and it involves toilets; not only toilets but a lack of access to clean water. I wonder how you might feel if you couldn't have clean water to have a shower, cook, drink or wash your clothes. Well, there are lots of people who face this problem every day. Today we will look at how this affects some people but also as people who are followers of Jesus, what our responsibility might be. How we might be able to help and serve other people just like in our relay.'

# The Main Thing

## Exploring the sanitation situation...

In Australia we take running water for granted. When we're thirsty we turn on a tap. When we go to the toilet we press the button and the waste flushes away. If we're dirty we jump under a shower or in a bath. If we're hot we go to a swimming pool, the beach, a lake or safe river. This however is not the reality for more than one billion people in our world today. The recent figures on sanitation place the following countries in the bottom 10 in the world:

### Access to sanitation:

1. Senegal (Africa)	8% of people can access clean water
2. Djibouti (Africa)	13%
3. Vanuatu (South pacific)	17%
4. Mali (Africa)	20%
5. Chad (Africa)	21%
6. Guinea (Africa)	23%
7. Guinea-Bissau (Africa)	25%
8. Yemen (Middle East)	28%
9. Togo (Africa)	28%
10. Botswana (Africa)	28%



There are 28 countries that have less than half of their entire population with access to clean and healthy water sources. Only 21 countries in the world have 100% access to clean sanitation. In Australia we have a very small percentage of the population (who live in remote outback areas and on islands) that experience difficulties accessing good sanitation and clean water, but we are still classed as a country with 100% sanitation for all people who live here.

When you look at the figures above, you notice that Vanuatu has only 17% of their population (i.e. 17 people out of 100) who have access to good sanitation and clean drinking water. Vanuatu is not very far from the east side of Australia (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane) only a three-hour flight, just like going from Cairns to Melbourne. Tourism is their largest source of income and they have some wonderful resorts and holiday attractions; you might have been there for a holiday. However, built next to some of the resorts are what we might call slums. They, the Ni-Van people, call them villages. These villages consist of housing made from woven grasses and palm fronds, besser (concrete) blocks, corrugated iron sheets and wood (see handout one).

In villages, there is usually a small building to the side of the main home that is used for toilet use. These are generally built over a pit that is dug, then either a slab is placed with a small hole or a box seat is constructed. Once the pit is full of waste, the hole is filled in and a new hole is dug and the structure is moved over that new hole. No sewerage treatment plants, flushing toilets or sweet smelling air fresheners here (see handout two).

### What does it look like...

Build a model to demonstrate how water is polluted in village settings. For this activity you will need a large tray to hold heaps of sand (20 kg is about \$6 from Bunnings), food colouring, small cardboard roll, water in a container

In your tray area, build a sand castle, and at the back of the sand castle have a 'sand toilet' (use a small cardboard roll to represent this), and a clean water spring that is higher up the geography. Put food colouring in the toilet waste area and then have a flood using water and see where the waste goes.

- What happened when the flood occurred?
- I wonder if having a rain water tank would have made a difference.
- I wonder how long it might take for the spring water to be 'safe' to drink from.

'There are so many people around the world that have situations like this where there might be access to water but because of a lack of good sanitation the water is not clean for washing, bathing or safe to drink. I am sure that you would not like to be in a situation like this, I wonder what our responsibility might be.'

### Exploring scripture...

'Today we are going to explore our responsibility to help others who are disadvantaged, as we think particularly about those with a lack of access to good sanitation.'

Read Deuteronomy 23:12–14 together.

- Why do you think God wants our 'camp' clean?
- What could we replace the word camp with? House, life, school, etc...
- Do we keep our living spaces clean today? How?
- I wonder how children living in developing areas might keep their camps clean.
- Do you think we have a responsibility to help? (*Hopefully they'll say 'yes' as this leads to the next scripture.*)



Look up Galatians 6:2, John 13:34–35 and Proverbs 3:27 together. You might want to divide this up around the group or find them and read them one at a time.

'In these passages we read that, "we're obedient to God by lending a helping hand", and that "we love others because Jesus loves us". And the wisdom from Proverbs reminds us to "do all we can for everyone who deserves your help."

- I wonder how that might look for us in Australia today.
- How do we show love and assistance to other children/people with no access to sanitation and safe drinking water?

We may not live in developing countries where sanitation is an issue, but we can still help other children who live in these situations. We can serve them by helping to alleviate the issue of poor sanitation. But how can we serve from so far away?'

## Tying In

### Go further...

This would be a really cool opportunity to do a project together. Below you will find some examples, but you may also like to look at the leader's notes/projects notes that are available on the Junior Soldier page on the website. You could have the children work together on a way to share what they have learned with others (e.g. another group, the whole church or their local school) as well as providing a way of inviting others to respond and support.

Allow the children some time to brainstorm around how they might like to make a difference and how they might go about it. Provide them with some large sheets of butchers paper and perhaps divide up into small groups to chat about some ideas and then come back together to make a whole group decision.

Below are some examples that you might like to suggest:

- You could share the message of clean water and sanitation in the meeting, and follow this up with a water fundraiser after the meeting.
- Buy some trays of bottled water; attach tags to them saying all proceeds will go to help provide access to water for others. Make them available to be sold. Use the money raised to help an overseas sanitation project.
  - o To sponsor water projects in The Salvation Army look up <http://salvos.org.au/said/projects/> for the Eastern Territory or <https://secure.salvationarmy.org.au/justsalvos/justgifts/> for the Southern Territory
  - o You can purchase hygiene packs, toilets, rain water tanks etc. to help and support in this way.
- Perhaps you could also set a task for the children to make posters highlighting the living conditions in one of the ten countries mentioned earlier in the lesson and use these to advertise your fundraising events, or just use them to raise the awareness amongst the older section of your corps/church.
- This would be ideal to do just before or during the Self Denial period which will be set out on your corps calendar.

# Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

## Toilet talk...

- Talk to a grandparent or someone older who may have grown up in Australia or overseas. Ask them what their home sanitation was like when they were young. Did they have clean water on tap? Did they have an outdoor toilet?
- Help raise funds for your Junior Soldier sanitation fundraiser. Don't forget to tell others why you are doing this and help them to understand the issue.



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Picture Handout One





Picture Handout Two



Some villages have public toilets in which you have to pay for the privilege. Here, a ladies toilet advertises that toilet paper is 30 Vatu (equivalent to AUD\$0.32). If you want to urinate it is AUD\$0.21; to wash your bottom cost AUD\$0.32 and to wash your hands afterwards is a further AUD\$0.21. So, to go to the toilet in this village will cost you about AUD\$1.00.



Guest's toilet in village



Local's toilet in village