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FARM-Africa Assembly

(Suitable for all age groups)

Aim

To reflect upon the importance of water and to be aware of the needs of those without clean water supplies.

Preparation and materials

- Some wet-weather gear (optional).
- A watering can.
- Two bottles, one filled with clean water and the other with muddy water.
- A bucket/jerry can.

Possible Hymns

- "Water of Life" No.2 Come and Praise.
- "One More Step" No.47 Come and Praise.
- "Lord of the Harvest" No.133 Come and Praise.

Assembly

1. Refer to the weather. If it is fine, remind the assembly that not all days are dry. Sometimes it is 'wet and horrible', but we should be thankful for rain. Invite the children to consider why we should say 'thank you' for rain.
2. Children could act out little actions of how we use water - e.g. plants need it to grow, animals need water to drink, we need it to wash!
3. We are lucky having water available all the time. Water mains and pipes bring water to our homes from reservoirs and treatment plants. Sometimes we waste water – leaving the tap on when cleaning teeth (act this out).
4. We can also buy clean bottled water. Show the children the prepared bottles. Who would want to drink the muddy water? No one. However, many people in the world have no choice but to drink polluted water.
5. Invite the children to imagine that they are the 7-year-old girl living in Tanzania in the following story.

(You could pause at this point to ask if any of the children have lived in other climates.)

Rehema's Story (Children can act out the story as it's told.)

Rehema is 7 years old. She lives in Tanzania. Her family are farmers.

Rehema gets up at 5 o'clock. She has a wash and gets dressed, and then heads out into the fields with her mum and dad. The sun is just coming up when Rehema starts work. She helps her mum use a hoe to dig the land, and then she sows some seeds.

At 7 o'clock, Rehema begins the hour-long walk to school.

Rehema's school is called Gedbung School. FARM-Africa helped build a chicken shed at the school and gave them ten chickens and three cockerels. Rehema's teacher is called Mr Utange. He teaches Rehema and the other children how to look after the chickens and stop them getting ill. The chickens also need water to survive.

At lunch time, Rehema and her friends eat maize and beans. Without water to grow these plants Rehema wouldn't have any lunch. Next, Mr Utange teaches the class how to mix the chicken's manure with the soil to make the soil richer – which also helps plants grow big and healthy.

When Rehema gets home from school just after 4 o'clock, she tells her mum and dad all about what she learnt. Her dad says that from now on he will use the manure from their two chickens and their goat to make the soil better in their fields. That way, they will have better harvests.

Next Rehema goes with her mother to the river, which is a mile away. They collect water in plastic jerry cans and walk home carrying the cans on their heads. Rehema is very good at balancing the can and no water splashes over the side. The water from the river is not very clean.

When Rehema gets home, she helps cook dinner. She has a dish made of maize which looks a bit like mashed potato. After dinner, Rehema helps around the house and looks after her younger brothers and sisters. When it gets dark, the family finish work for the day. Rehema does her homework by candle light, then she says her prayers, says goodnight, and goes to bed.

Rehema dreams that there is plenty of rain and her family's crops grow and grow overnight, and she is dancing happily with her friends among the tall, healthy plants.

Prayers/ Reflection

Depending on the faith of the school you could add in suitable prayers or time of reflection as needed.