



Right to Water Mixer



WHAT YOU NEED:

A group of 8 people • Two buckets with water

INTRODUCTIONS: (10 minutes)

The National Youth Project (NYP) focuses on the Right to Water, especially in Indigenous communities. Part of the project is to recognize our solidarity and community building with Indigenous partners. In this spirit of sharing our connections beyond just ourselves as individuals, use the questions below as a way for everyone to introduce themselves. Sit in a circle around your buckets and take a minute each to share:

1. *Who are you in your family? Eldest, youngest, one of many, only child, etc. Where did your name come from? Who are your parents and where is their home? What is the land that you come from? It may be part of Canada, it may be far away.*
2. *What is the waterway you are connected to? Maybe you live on the Great Lakes. Maybe you live in the Fraser River Delta or come from the Red River. Maybe you feel a connection to an ocean. Each person introduces themselves by the body of water that is closest to them or to which they feel a connection. In this way, we are introducing ourselves by our relationship to natural waters.*

ACTIVITY 1: Why Water?

In July of 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution recognizing clean water and proper sanitation as a human right, and as a vital part of all human rights. The UN describes the right to water as each individual being able to use 50–100 litres of water per day, which is within 1000 metres of home, at a cost less than 3 percent of household income, and a collection time that is under 30 minutes. Not having reliable access to water affects women and children more than others due to the fact that “women and children spend 125 million hours each day collecting water.” It is estimated that between 14–30 thousand people die from “avoidable water-related diseases,” every year. Not having access to clean water affects sanitation and health and can also make it difficult to eat healthy food. Water helps all people remain healthy, prevent disease and it also makes sense economically; for every \$1 invested into water and sanitation, there is a \$4 return. The NYP supports the right to water!

- http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/facts_and_figures_human_right_to_water_eng.pdf
- <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/EPLP-051.pdf> • water.org

50 STEPS EACH

Each person has to carry a bucket of water 50 steps and complete one of the following (in any order):

- Climb some stairs or climb uphill with the bucket.
- Go over something with the bucket.
- Go under something with the bucket.
- Trade your bucket with another group's bucket.
- Two people have to carry one bucket on their head (transfer some of the water to the other bucket to share the weight, make something as a pad to cushion the bucket on your head).
- Carry the bucket blindfolded (have someone guide them).
- Carry the bucket in a way that doesn't have their hands on the bucket or handle (use other props available to you).

Please take photos and post them to social media with #nationalyouthproject, #claygathering.

READ

DO!

ACTIVITY 2: Why Pikangikum?

We realize it's a big goal to achieve the Right to Water for the entire world, but we believe every drop in the bucket counts, which is why we're starting with Pikangikum. Pikangikum First Nation is a community of 2700 people in northern Ontario, 100 kilometres north of the town of Red Lake in the Kenora District.

Currently, Pikangikum is in a state of emergency, first declared in 2011. The community and its residents suffer from a lack of clean drinking water, proper sewage and sanitation services, and an unreliable power grid powered by a diesel generator (they are not connected to the provincial hydro system). Although the generator and electrical system issue have been solved in the interim by energy efficiency initiatives, many of the community's homes still don't have running water nor indoor plumbing.

READ

The National Youth Project has sponsored one of the homes that has been provided with indoor plumbing and water, as well as training of electricians, plumbers and of homeowners so that the multi-generational families who live there may enjoy clean, safe, drinkable water, providing the families and residents with improved quality of life and hope for the future.

WATER RELAY

Pour all the water into one bucket. Put the empty bucket 10 large steps away. Get the contents of the full bucket into the empty bucket using whatever you have with you. Be creative!

DO!

READ

ACTIVITY 3: Write 4 Right 2 Water

There are many ways for you, your youth group and your church community to get involved in the National Youth Project! You can pray, give and act! Visit <http://claygathering.ca/national-youth-project/> for ideas, links, activities and resources.

TAKE ACTION RIGHT NOW!

Get postcards for your group, available for download at claygathering.ca/national-youth-project.

Sign them, address them and mail them.

DO!

ACTIVITY 4: Holy Water

Water connects people all over the planet. We all need water to survive and our continents are connected by the oceans, and our communities are connected by lakes, rivers, and streams.

READ

A person involved with the work of the National Youth Project was told this story: After the tsunami in Japan a few years ago, Pete, a beach-combing artist in BC, saw new and different things washing up on the shores of Vancouver Island – debris from the tsunami. He found a piece of a plastic shipping crate with Japanese writing on it. He was able to track down where it came from and get it back to the man it belonged to. Pete and that man from Japan, men with different lives an ocean apart, are connected. The Japanese man wept when he got the piece of plastic back. He had lost everything in the tsunami but now he had a physical connection to the past and Pete had a deeper understanding of the way that the ocean, the way that water, connects us.

As Christians, water connects us all in a sacred and holy way. For all of the ways that our various denominations differ, we believe in one baptism. One sacrament where, through water, we are marked as Christ's own forever. The same water that the Spirit moved over at the very beginning of creation, the water that physically nourishes, cleans and sustains all of us, is also what connects all of us in our faith. Our Baptism is a reminder that we are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

<http://peteclarkson.com/artist>

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

To conclude your time together as a group, use your water to anoint one another.

Dip your fingers in the water, anoint the forehead of the person beside you, say their name and say "In Baptism, you are part of God's mission for the life of the world." When you are finished, the last person says "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Everyone answers "Thanks be to God."

When you are done, please pour out your water on a place that needs it—the grass, a planter, a tree, etc.

DO!