



River of Life News

Issue No. 1

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Water, Water Everywhere!

Welcome to Vacation Bible School! We're thinking about water this year. Did you know there's water all around us all the time? Not just in oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, but even in the air! (You can feel it when there's too much of it in the air - that's called *humidity*.) Well, there's water everywhere in the Bible, too. It's in the first chapter, the last chapter, and just about everywhere in between. God's loves water, and loves using it for our good. That's what we'll be talking about this week - water! And stories about water in the Bible.

SPECIAL OFFERING THIS WEEK

Every year at Vacation Bible School we gather a special offering to help children around the world. This year our offering will go to provide books to children who are *thirsty* to learn about Jesus. But children where? Ah! This year, you get to decide! We'll be looking at five different areas of the world this week, and on the last day we'll take a vote to decide which place you'd like to help.

To make our offering fun, each day we collect a different coin - and tomorrow is PENNY DAY. So bring your pennies tomorrow! And remember, for every penny you bring, Pastor will also give a penny! So if every child brings 100 pennies, Pastor will have to put in a boat load of pennies! (Get it? Water . . . *boat load* . . . ?)

Parents' Column

Thank you for letting us teach your children in our Vacation Bible School this year. Children are so important to Jesus! And we rejoice that all Christians are His children whom He dearly loves.

Talk to your children about water this week, how important it is to us, and help them see it all around us all the time. And remind them to think about God and how He created water for us.



Remember to bring pennies tomorrow!





Creation

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the **waters**.*

~ Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning, when God created, there was water! Water is necessary for life. And God has blessed us with lots of water. 71% of the earth is covered with water. But God created a lot more than water, and how wonderful that creation is. What is your favorite part of creation? A warm summer day? A sunset? Animals? Maybe a snowy day of sledding! How about all the Fall colors on the trees? Or a fresh apple picked from the tree? There is so much to be thankful for in all that God made for us!

But even more reason to be thankful is even though we mess up His wonderful creation with sin, God sent His Son to pay the price for our sin and forgive us. And God uses water there too - the water of Holy Baptism! So that we might be *new* creations, no longer messed up by sin.

Haiti

The area of the world we looked at today was the Caribbean, and especially the island nation of Haiti. Can you find it on the map? Haiti is surrounded by water, which sometimes causes problems for them, like when hurricanes or tsunamis come.

Haiti is a little country with big problems! Some of the people there are Christians, but many are not. 75% of the people live in poverty, and over half practice voodoo and worship spirits and false gods. They and their children are thirsty! Thirsty for the Word of God and to learn about their Saviour Jesus Christ and give them hope! Maybe you will choose Haiti as the place to provide books about Jesus. There is certainly a great need there!

