



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

FAITH IN ACTION EXPERIENCE

WALK FOR WATER

Help students
understand the global
water crisis and make
a difference.



WHY



WATER IS LIFE

Nearly 4,000 people, more than 1,000 of whom are children under 5, die every day from diseases related to lack of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. 703 million people lack basic drinking water access, about one out of every 11 people on the planet.

The global water crisis disproportionately impacts women and girls. According to the World Health Organization, in sub-Saharan Africa alone, women and girls spend a cumulative 250 million hours every day hauling water. **On average, they walk 6 kilometers to haul 44 pounds of water.**



The global water crisis can be solved within our lifetimes.

World Vision reaches one new person with clean water every 10 seconds. Since 2011, World Vision has helped establish lasting access to clean water for 40.3 million people!

The Walk for Water Experience invites students to explore the global water crisis through a biblical lens and discover what it means to respond with compassion, generosity, and action.

When your school says yes, you join a growing network of Christian schools equipping the next generation to understand global issues, live out their faith, and become compassionate changemakers.

DID YOU KNOW?

\$50 equips one person in need with lasting clean water

**“I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.”
—Matthew 25:35 (NIV)**



MALAWI



MEET FAITH

Twelve-year-old Faith lives with her mother and two sisters in Malawi. When her mother leaves home for weeks at a time to find work, Faith cares for her sisters, 8-year-old Isabel and 3-year-old Cynthia.

One of the responsibilities that falls to Faith when her mother is gone is the task of gathering the water they use for bathing, washing clothes and dishes, cooking, and drinking.

Every day, Faith and Isabel walk about 7 miles (11 kilometers) to gather water at the nearest source. During the rainy season, they can draw water from the river, but during the dry season or a drought, the river dries up and they dig holes in the dry riverbed and wait for them to fill with dirty water.

The journey is long, dangerous, and exhausting, exposing the girls to wild animals, heavy loads, and unsafe water that often makes them sick.

The time spent gathering water also causes Faith to miss school, fall behind in her studies, and struggle to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse.

READ HER
STORY



HOW



Sign up your school today!

Activate your school community through the Walk for Water Faith in Action Experience, a simple and ready-to-use program that helps students learn about the global water crisis and put their faith into action.



PLAN

Plan your experience

- Find a few student leaders to join you in the planning.
- Choose a date for your **Walk for Water**. Plan for at least two weeks of learning and fundraising leading up to the event.
- Claim your school's impact page by scanning the QR code above and set a goal. Break your goal into achievable steps by encouraging each student to raise a specific amount and track your progress together.
- Engage parents in the journey: Use our ready-to-send email templates ([see page 10](#)) to help families understand the impact of the Walk for Water and how they can support their students.



WEEK 1

Learn

- Introduce the global water crisis using "The Why" chapel video and leaders guide ([see page 8](#)).
- Set up your students' impact pages. [See page 14](#) for instructions and tips.
- Complete a classroom activity, such as learning about daily water consumption ([see page 12](#)).
- Send first parent communication ([see page 10](#)).



WEEK 2

Go deeper

- Continue learning about the global water crisis through "The Why Water" chapel video and leaders guide ([see page 8](#)).
- Promote your event by having students make posters with **water facts**.
- Complete a **classroom activity**, such the clean water science experiment ([see page 12](#)).
- Send second parent communication ([see page 11](#)).



WEEK 3

Act and celebrate

- It's time for your Walk for Water!
- Celebrate your global impact through "The Celebration" chapel and leaders guide ([see page 8](#)).
- Have students write notes to thank supporters.
- Send third (and final!) parent communication ([see page 11](#)).





WHAT

WALK FOR WATER



LEADERS

Set up the experience

- Gather water containers:
Purchase jerrycans or invite students to bring containers from home, like a 5-gallon bucket, a 1-gallon milk jug, or a water bottle.
- Choose a distance that fits your school community (1K, 3K, or 6K) and map your route.
- Create an engaging experience.
 - › Invite a parent or student DJ.
 - › Create a fun start/finish line.
 - › Recruit volunteers to encourage participants along the route.
 - › Add signs, prayer prompts, or water facts throughout the course.



STUDENTS

Experience the journey

- Carry water containers along the designated route.
- Participate in reflection and prayer stations.
- Learn about the challenges many children face in accessing clean water.
- Pray for children, families, and communities affected by the global water crisis ([see page 8](#)).

A STORY OF FAITH IN ACTION



STUDENTS LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR CLEAN WATER

For eight years, the students of EPIC Academy have been lacing up with purpose. They join Team World Vision to help children they care for deeply, yet may never meet.

Every fall, the school shines brightest during their Light the Night walk-a-thon. Glowing bracelets, buzzing excitement, 250 children, and one bold challenge: “Can you reach two?” It’s a call to raise money to equip two children per walker with clean water.

Students spend weeks gathering support, then arrive at Light the Night ready to move. They know that every step they take will help ease the daily burden other children bear as they walk long distances to collect water that’s often dirty.

It’s a meaningful goal coupled with friendly chaos that fuels generosity! Light the Night includes a boys vs. girls fundraising showdown, ice bucket consequences, sundaes built on the director’s

head, teachers dropped into dunk tanks, and pies flung with suspicious accuracy.

In the past eight years EPIC Academy has used events like Light the Night to raise more than \$500,000 for clean water. More than that—EPIC students are developing a heart for the wider world and growing into leaders who know their actions make a difference.

A small school in Michigan. A mission that stretches across oceans. And a generation learning that Jesus’ love moves one step at a time.

“Light The Night expands the worldview of our students and helps them see how they can be an agent of change to bring justice and restore what is broken in our world.”

—Karen Miedema, Service Projects Director at EPIC Academy



RESOURCES

Giving with purpose: Fundraising for clean water

Set up your school's impact page

One of the most powerful aspects of the Faith in Action Experience is giving students the opportunity to respond. Fundraising transforms learning into action, helping students practice generosity, grow in empathy, take ownership and see that they can be part of God's work in the world today. As they invite others to support clean water initiatives, students learn that their voices, efforts, and faith can have a real impact on the lives of others.



Water chapel series

These chapel messages highlight World Vision's efforts to equip communities with access to clean water. They're designed to stand alone or be used as a three-week series. The leaders guide contains cross-curricular resources and activities for science, math, and Bible classes. Additionally, there are email templates to communicate with parents and instructions for setting up impact pages.



Water prayer guide

Next to air, water is our most essential physical necessity. In the United States, most people are blessed to have abundant, clean water to drink and use for cooking, growing food, washing clothes, and flushing toilets. We seldom worry that the water we drink could make us sick—or even kill us. Around the world, hundreds of millions of people don't share this blessing. Join us in prayer for clean water for the thirsty.



Water coloring page

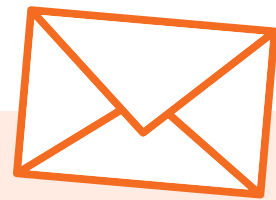
For younger students, bring the story of God's love to life with this engaging coloring page! As students color, they'll be reminded that every child is created in God's image and deserves the opportunity to thrive. Around the world, many children face challenges such as lack of access to clean water. This activity provides a simple way to spark meaningful conversations about compassion, gratitude, and how we can reflect Christ's love by caring for our neighbors near and far.



EMAILS

Use the sample emails below to keep parents informed and engaged throughout your school's Faith in Action Experience.

*Simply customize the **blue** sections with your school's details, event information, and fundraising links. For questions or support, contact schools@worldvision.org.*



EMAIL #1

Coming soon: Our World Vision Faith In Action Experience

Dear families,

We are excited to announce that our students will soon participate in the World Vision Faith in Action Experience — a hands-on opportunity to learn about the global water crisis and discover how faith can be lived out through compassion and service.

Over the coming weeks, students will explore the challenges many children and families face in accessing clean water and learn how organizations like World Vision are helping create lasting change around the world, in Jesus' name.

As part of the experience, students will participate in a Walk for Water, helping them better understand the daily realities faced by millions of people worldwide. Students will also have the opportunity to raise funds to help inspire hope for families in vulnerable communities that World Vision serves through clean water and improved sanitation.

We look forward to sharing more details in the weeks ahead and inviting your family to join us in this meaningful journey of learning and action.

Thank you for partnering with us as we help students grow in faith, compassion, and global awareness.

Sincerely,

[SCHOOL LEADER NAME]

EMAIL #2

Our Walk for Water is almost here!

Dear families,

Our World Vision Faith in Action Experience is underway, and we are excited for students to participate in our upcoming Walk for Water on [\[DATE\]](#).

Throughout this experience, students have been learning about the global water crisis and the impact clean water can have on the health, education, and future of children around the world.

The Walk for Water will give students a tangible opportunity to connect what they have learned with action. We also invite families to support our school's efforts to help empower communities in need with lasting clean water.

You can learn more, make a donation, and follow our progress here: [\[SCHOOL IMPACT PAGE LINK\]](#).

Thank you for helping our students put their faith into action and make a difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,
[\[SCHOOL LEADER NAME\]](#)



EMAIL #3

Thank you for supporting our Faith in Action Experience

Dear families,

Over the past several weeks, students have learned about the global water crisis, participated in a Walk for Water, and discovered how their actions can help create lasting change for children and families around the world.

Together, our school community raised [\[INSERT TOTAL\]](#) for World Vision to help equip vulnerable communities with clean water and lasting hope.

More importantly, we have seen students grow in empathy, compassion, and a deeper understanding of what it means to put their faith into action.

Thank you for partnering with us in creating an experience that has impacted both our students and the communities they are helping serve.

Sincerely,
[\[SCHOOL LEADER NAME\]](#)



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

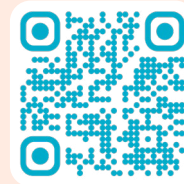
Help students deepen their understanding of the global water crisis through one of these hands-on learning experiences.

HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU USE?

Invite students to use the Daily Water Consumption Calculator to estimate how much water they use each day.

Time: 15–20 minutes

Resource: [Daily Water Consumption Calculator](#)



Discussion questions:

- What surprised you about your results?
- Which activities use the most water?
- How might life be different if clean water was difficult to access?

CLEAN WATER SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Demonstrate how contaminated water can be filtered and treated using a simple water purification activity. This experiment helps students understand why access to safe drinking water is so important.

Time: 20–30 minutes

Resources:

- [Water Purification Experiment Video](#)
- Buy P&G water purification packets, available online through major retailers



Discussion questions:

- Why is clean water important for health?
- What challenges might families face when clean water isn't available?
- How can access to clean water change a community?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT POVERTY AND GENEROSITY

Invite students to explore what Scripture teaches about caring for people in need and responding with generosity. Through guided discussion, students will discover that compassion for others is woven throughout God's story and that generosity is one way we can live out our faith.

Time: 20–30 minutes

Read and discuss:

- [What does the Bible say about poverty?](#)
- [Bible verses about generosity and giving](#)

Discussion questions:

- What do these passages teach us about God's heart for people in need?
- Why do you think generosity is important to God?
- How can we put our faith into action by serving others?
- How does access to clean water connect to loving our neighbors?

Reflect: Invite students to write a short prayer for children and families affected by the global water crisis and consider one practical way they can respond through generosity, service, or advocacy.



BUILD A HANDWASHING STATION OR WATER PUMP

Students work together to create a simple handwashing station or water pump model while learning about the role of clean water and sanitation in keeping communities healthy.

Time: 30–45 minutes

Resources:

- [Build a tip tap handwashing station](#)
- [How to build a water pump](#)

Discussion questions:

- Why is handwashing important?
- How does access to water impact schools and families?
- What would be difficult if your community didn't have clean water nearby?

Reflect: Close by inviting students to consider how they can respond to what they've learned and how the Walk for Water can help equip vulnerable children and families with clean water and hope.



FUNDRAISING

TIPS

See below for tried-and-true ideas to help you make the biggest impact!

Pro tip: Start with these foundational six ideas to set you up for success.

1. **Donate to yourself:** Show people that you have skin in the game by donating to yourself, and they will be inspired to follow your example.
 2. **Invite a friend to match your gift:** Tell your friends what you're up to, and ask them to be on this journey with you!
 3. **Prayerfully set your goal:** Pray for the people who have and will support your cause, for the children and communities that will be impacted, and for the faith to set a God-sized goal. Then, set that goal high, knowing the bigger the goal, the bigger the impact!
 4. **Make a list:** Make a list of everyone you know. Seriously, everyone. Think of family, friends, neighbors, church members, and your social media connections.
 5. **Write your story:** Use what you've learned about the global water crisis, along with why you said yes to walking for water, to write your story. Everyone has a story that will inspire others to give. Write it down and start sharing it!
 6. **Send an email or text:** Share your story, your "why," in emails and texts to people on your list. Make it personal because personal asks are the most effective. This is a great way to make people aware of what you're doing.
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7. **Make face-to-face asks:** There's something powerful about looking someone in the eye, telling them your story, and inviting them to be a part of changing the world! Don't be afraid of hearing "no." The more people you ask, the more you'll hear a "yes!"
 8. **Blast social media:** Post online about your cause and what your goal is, and then follow up with everyone who likes and comments on your post.
 9. **Sell or make something:** Declutter or tap into your talents for your cause! Hold a garage sale, auction off craft items, make some earrings, hold a lemonade and cookies stand, or sell your clothes online.

FUNDRAISING TIPS, *continued*

- 10. Pray about your goal:** Take some time to pray about the people who will be impacted because of your fundraising efforts. Revisit your goal and ask God to continue to reveal to you what your goal should be (maybe it's time to raise it), who you should ask for donations, and to help you fundraise more than you could imagine.
- 11. Make a big ask:** Leverage a big donation from you or someone else as a fundraising match challenge (e.g., "an anonymous donor will match every dollar raised this weekend, up to \$500"). Watch the ripple effect!
- 12. Send snail mail:** Ask for a donation the old-fashioned way. Mail a personal note with information about what you're doing and why. Be specific in your ask, and don't forget to include your fundraising link.
- 13. Pray and personally follow up:** Pray for each of your donors by name. Write down their names and pray for everyone on the list. Pray that your heart and the hearts of your friends and family will be broken by the things that break the heart of God, and that transformation will come in their lives and in the lives of vulnerable children.
- 14. Partner with your community:** Fundraising is better in community. Think about what groups will let you share your story and goal. How about your parents' employers, church groups, local organizations, hobby groups (sports, dance, music, theater, etc.), and local businesses like restaurants and gyms?
- 15. Thank your donors:** Let your donors know how much you appreciate them and give them an update on how many lives are going to be changed by what you've raised so far. Tag your donors on social media with thank you messages.
- 16. Schedule a catch-up week:** Take a breath. Use this week to catch up. Review all the fundraising tips and see if there's something you haven't tried yet. Ask your classmates what kind of asks have been the most successful for them. Also, try raising your fundraising goal—a proven way to get more donations!
- 17. Send an update to your "not yet's":** Review your list and follow up with those who have not yet donated. Maybe they just need a little nudge or a reminder!
- 18. Deadline week:** This is it. Finish well. Post on social media, send some emails and texts, and follow up. Everyone will love an update on what you've learned so far. Consider sending a photo or your reflections from your Walk for Water. This is your last chance to ask for prayers and support!



To explore how World Vision can partner with your school, contact Chad McDaniel at schools@worldvision.org.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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