



Jars of Change

Lent Appeal 2019

All age talk

Inspire your congregation to get involved in the Jars of Change appeal with this all age talk.

Download the accompanying PowerPoint at www.wateraid.org/uk/lent

Slide one

We are all born with great potential. Potential that needs to be carefully developed and nurtured in order for us to be the best that we can be.

Use the Bible reading below to explain how important it is that children are able to reach their potential. You might like to share some anecdotes about children known to your congregation who have done well. It could be someone who has made a significant achievement, it could be Scouts who have overcome a challenge at their camp, or it could be members of your youth group who have raised money for a good cause.

Or you can show famous people as children and then as adults. Ask your congregation to guess who the child is and then reveal the picture. Feel free to create your own version of this using well-known people of interest to your congregation or even people from within your congregation.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11



Slide two

Explain how our access to clean water significantly affects the likelihood of us reaching our full potential. For example, dirty water means people are more likely to get ill, which can mean growth is stunted, school is missed, energy to work is lacking.

If we don't have access to clean water near our homes the alternative to getting ill will probably be a long walk. Often it is the children in a family who have to do this task. It might prevent them from getting ill, but it can be tiring, dangerous and may mean missing out on school and play.



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Slide three

Introduce 11-year old Maliya to your congregation. She lives in Chiswe, a small village in Malawi without access to clean water. Maliya spends hours each day walking to collect water, starting early in the morning and travelling through dangerous routes. The long journey to water often makes her late from school and as a result she misses out on whole days of education.

Her afternoons are equally dominated by fetching water, instead of studying or playing with her friends. Her whole life would change if she had access to clean water and could attend school every day.

Slide four

Now introduce 10-year-old Malita, who has already experienced how clean water can change everything. Malita lives in Bwemba, Malawi, and her village recently had a water kiosk installed where they can all collect clean water. Before that, Malita used to have the same problems as Maliya - she struggled to keep up at school and used to be late for classes. Now she only has to walk five minutes to reach clean water, and she's thriving! She's proud to have gone from being 25th to first in class since clean water was brought to her village. She now has time to enjoy her childhood, play with her friends and spend more time with her family.

Slide five

Let your congregation know that your church is supporting WaterAid by joining Jars of Change. By giving something up this Lent, and collecting the money saved, your church could transform Maliya's life too, creating a ripple of opportunity that comes with clean water.

To end the session, you might want to use this prayer for those who aren't able to reach their potential due to the lack of clean water.



Lord Jesus, as we reflect on your journey towards Jerusalem we pray for those who have to travel a long way to find clean water. As some of us give up one of life's luxuries during Lent we lift up to you those who have no choice but to miss out on their education to help their families find life's necessities. As we ponder the time between Christmas and Easter we remember those children who miss out on so much of their childhood due to illness or having to fetch water for themselves and their families. And as we look towards the Passion we pray that unfairness will no longer prevent people achieving the purposes you have for them. Amen

Revd Kate Wharton, Vicar of St. Bart's Church, Roby, Liverpool

Don't forget you can still request your Jars of Change resource pack from www.wateraid.org/uk/lent Here you'll also find the Jars of Change Lent appeal film that you can share in this session too.