

## Ideas for World Water Day 2009

*World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.*

*Throughout the seven weeks of Lent the Ecumenical Water Network publishes weekly meditations on its website as a way of trying to raise awareness of water and justice around World Water Day. The reflections are always accompanied by some campaigning links and ideas for activities which we hope will inspire and help individuals and congregations to work towards local and global water justice.*

*Included here are just a small sample of the many possible activities that you could organize in your congregations or elsewhere for World Water Day and during Lent.*

*Are you already planning an activity for World Water Day 2009? Do you have ideas and comments about how we can achieve a just distribution and sustainable use of our most precious resource? Then let us and others know about your ideas and experiences at [www.oikoumene.org/7-weeks-for-water](http://www.oikoumene.org/7-weeks-for-water)*

### 1. Bible Studies

#### Seven Weeks for Water (Ecumenical Water Network)

- Share our weekly Bible reflections with others in your congregation
- Discuss the reflections in your Bible study group and share your results and comments on the website of the Ecumenical Water Network

Seven Weeks for Water: [www.oikoumene.org/7-weeks-for-water](http://www.oikoumene.org/7-weeks-for-water)



#### Bible Study by John Buttars (United Church of Canada)

- Welcome and introductions, opening prayer and song (10 min.)
- Divide into small groups. Share stories of times when water has been the medium for an important experience of God's presence and / or where water has been experienced as a threat (30 min.)
- In small groups, use the Bible study suggestions in "Water and the Bible" (35 min.)
- Gather in plenary to share your observations (40 min.)
- Closing prayer and song (5 min.)

Download the suggestions for Bible study:  
[Water and the Bible](#)

## 2. Worship

Prepare a service on the theme of water or incorporate some of the following resources into your normal service on the occasion of World Water Day (Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March):

- [Water Worship service \(KAIROS\)](#)
- [Worship with Water \(Church World Service\)](#)
- [Talking about Toilets \(Christian World Service\)](#)

## 3. Exhibition: How much water do we eat?

### An exhibition on virtual water

- Learn more about our consumption of "virtual water" (the water being used in the production of food and other goods) at <http://www.waterfootprint.org>
- Find out about opportunities for an presentation or exhibition in your congregation, school, clubs etc.
- Build a "virtual water cube" which illustrates the quantities of different products that can be produced with 1000 litres of water.
- Prepare some explanations and background information on virtual water and global water use which you can hand out or exhibit with the cube.



Download fact sheet and instructions for the virtual water cube exhibition at <http://www.oikoumene.org/?id=5566>

## 4. Study Session

### A study session with water stories of people from Lesotho, the Philippines and El Salvador (based on a United Church of Canada partner survey)

- Welcome and introductions, opening prayer and song (10 min.)
- Participants read the stories (15 min.)
- Divide into small groups to discuss the stories (40 min.)
- Break (10 min.)
- Gather in plenary for small group reports (20 min.)
- Brainstorm ways of presenting stories to the faith community to raise awareness (35 min.)
- Closing prayer and song. (5 min.)

Download the United Church of Canada [study session on global water issues](#)